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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 7 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in September 1997.

1 September 1997

At 0600 hours the Jabbur pool and Jabal Abi Rashid came under Israeli artillery fire that continued until 0610 hours.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire, receiving some 20 shells of various calibres.

At 1800 hours the shelling of outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Haddatha and Bra'shit resumed.

At 2055 hours Israeli warplanes and helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at high altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

2 September 1997

At 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah area at high altitudes.

At 2000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

On the night of 2 to 3 September Israeli forces raided a number of houses in Khiyam, Dibbin and Balat in Marj Uyun district, detained a number of persons and prevented villagers from leaving the area of the border strip.

3 September 1997

At 0730 hours outlying areas of Jba' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1615 hours outlying areas of Zibqin, Ramadiyah and Shu'aytiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2300 hours outlying areas of Tibnin in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

4 September 1997

At 1345 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

5 September 1997

At 0100 hours the environs of the Adlun post and the townships of Insariyah, Lubya and Adlun came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by overflights by Israeli warplanes, which were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire. Israeli naval vessels and helicopters attempted to carry out a landing on the seashore at Sarafand and Munis in Sidon district and directed a number of bursts of fire at houses and vehicles. Serious damage was done and one person was injured.

At 0200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 0330 hours Israeli warplanes and helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

7 September 1997

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks there and Wadi Habbush came under Israeli artillery fire. This continued until 0830 hours.

At 0705 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Nabatiyah at low altitudes.

At 1300 hours Lebanese Army forces found an explosive charge left behind in the recent Israeli landing between Lubya and Insariyah. They dismantled the device.

8 September 1997

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Haddatha, Ayta al-Jabal, Haris and Bra'shit came under artillery fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions in the border strip. Israeli helicopters also overflew the Bint Jubayl area.

At 2000 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

9 September 1997

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes carrying out a number of mock attacks. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire.

At 1100 hours a fire started in an outlying area to the south of Jarju'. At 1300 hours it was extinguished by civil defence personnel. It transpired that the fire had been caused by heat balloons dropped by Israeli warplanes.

At 2245 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Sidon at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

10 September 1997

At 0530 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Sidon at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1115 hours the Libbaya hills in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1500 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Tulin, Qabrikha, Sawwanah and Majdal Silm came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2230 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris, Kafra, Yatar, Bra'shit and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli helicopters also engaged in strafing, and this caused a fire in an outlying area of Tibnin that destroyed some 30 dunums.

11 September 1997

At 0945 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Marj Barja in Shuf district at low altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2230 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Nabatiyah area, and at 2250 hours they carried out a three-stage attack on a Lebanese Army site in the Arabsalim - Jarju' - Humin al-Fawqa triangle and on a Lebanese Army post located in a school in the southern part of Arabsalim. Six Lebanese Army personnel were killed and five were wounded. Two vehicles were also destroyed and one civilian

woman was killed. In the meantime, outlying areas of Arabsalim, Humin al-Fawqa and Ayn Bu Siwar and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

13 September 1997

At 1710 hours an area of Jabal Mashgharah near the dwellings and the environs of the Syrian forces compound to the south of the town received intermittent bursts of heavy-weapons fire from Israeli and Lahad militia positions in Tumat Niha.

14 September 1997

At 0100 hours outlying areas of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, Tulin, Bra'shit, Tibnin, and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0215 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba' and Ayn Qana and areas along the Zahrani River came under artillery fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 1350 hours the Jabal Mashgharah heights and the environs of the Sharaf hospital refrigeration plant came under artillery fire from Israeli forces and Lahad forces at the Tumat Niha position. The shelling stopped at 1500 hours while intermittent machine-gun rounds continued to be fired. The shelling caused a huge fire on the uppermost summit of Jabal Mashgharah facing the Israeli forces in Tumat Niha.

At 1930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes. Israeli warplanes also overflew Barja and Marj Barja in Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army. At the same time, they also overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

At 2030 hours outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah in Nabatiyah district came under Israeli artillery bombardment.

15 September 1997

At 1200 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah and Nabatiyah areas at medium altitude. This was accompanied by an Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar.

At 1345 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Arabsalim and Humin al-Fawqa, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and Kafr Rumman came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1530 hours.

16 September 1997

At 1125 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps.

At 1450 hours warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitudes.

17 September 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim and Jarju' and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Haris, Kafra and Ayta al-Jabal came under artillery fire from Israeli forces and Lahad militia positions in the occupied border strip.

At 1545 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude.

18 September 1997

At 0630 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area became tense and clashes took place between men of the Lebanese national resistance and Israeli forces and Lahad militia elements in which all types of weapons were used. Some rocket projectiles fell in Rayhan in Jazzin district and one citizen was injured.

At 0700 hours the security situation in the Tumat Niha area in Jazzin district became tense and there were clashes between men of the Lebanese national resistance and Lahad militia elements in which all types of weapons were used. The clashes stopped at 0800 hours.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. The environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Army barracks there also came under artillery fire and received bursts of fire from the Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 0720 hours the southern environs of Mashgharah near the vocational school buildings came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0750 hours the Israeli bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit was extended to include Tulin, Qabrikha, Kafra, Sawwanah, Khirbat Silm and Majdal Silm. The bombardment of outlying areas of the same towns resumed at 1130 hours.

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1200 hours after two homes in Arabsalim had been damaged.

At 0830 hours the Israeli bombardment of the environs of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa stopped after it had been extended to outlying areas of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Habbush, Kafr Rumman, Kafr Tibnit and Nabatiyah al-Tahta. Five citizens were wounded and a number of houses and vehicles were damaged.

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Jabal Mashgharah in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1000 hours outlying areas of Mansuri and Jabal Zun in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

19 September 1997

At 2145 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha was resumed.

21 September 1997

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Kafr Rumman and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2000 hours the environs of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under Israeli artillery fire.

23 September 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Habbush, Arabsalim and Jarju', the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire. It stopped at 1800 hours.

At 1500 hours the Jabal al-Rayhan and Aramta areas came under artillery and rocket fire from the west.

At 1515 hours Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Haris and Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire. This was accompanied by intensive overflights of the area by Israeli warplanes.

At 2000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

At 2040 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Mashgharah area and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude.

24 September 1997

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Libbaya in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli forces on board a naval vessel also fired at a fishing boat off Mansuri in Tyre district and caused it major damage.

At 1515 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude and carried out mock attacks and in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area in particular. They were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

25 September 1997

At 0915 hours outlying areas of Tibnin, Bra'shit, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha came under Israeli bombardment.

At 1115 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of outlying areas of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit and Haddatha resumed, causing a fire in a garden attached to a house.

26 September 1997

At 1130 hours Israeli aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitudes.

27 September 1997

At 2121 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at medium altitudes and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

29 September 1997

At 1100 hours outlying areas of Majdal Silm, Khirbat Silm, Sawwanah, Qabrikha and Tulin came under Israeli artillery fire.

30 September 1997

At 0530 hours outlying areas of Shaqra, Majdal Silm and Qabrikha came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0745 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Arabsalim, Ayn Bu Siwar and Luwayzah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1330 hours outlying areas of Bra'shit and Tibnin came under Israeli artillery fire.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/52/443

General Assembly

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Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Assistance of the United Nations, including Special Economic Assistance: Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 1995/56 of 28 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council decided to undertake a review of the capacity of the United Nations to respond to humanitarian crises and disasters. The Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and analytical report on all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance. In its resolution 51/194 of 17 December 1996, the General Assembly endorsed the review called for by the Council and requested the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to contribute to the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General.

2. Pursuant to those resolutions, the United Nations humanitarian system has undertaken, over the past 18 months, an unprecedented effort to review the capacity of the United Nations system to address humanitarian crises. During the review, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee examined some of the central issues, in particular those relating to coordination, resource mobilization, internally displaced persons, evaluation, strengthening local capacity and relief and development linkages, and staff development. The conclusions emanating from this review will allow for a more strategic approach to humanitarian assistance which will, in turn, enhance effective response to humanitarian crises, allow for better focus on capacity-building, and increase linkages with rehabilitation and recovery activities. Drawing upon the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as well as past experience in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the Secretary-General submitted an interim report to the Economic and Social Council in July 1997 on the review of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (E/1997/98). In its decision 1997/218 of 17 July 1997, the Council took note of the report and requested the Secretary-General to present a more comprehensive report on humanitarian assistance to the Council at one of its subsequent sessions.

3. In his report on the reform of the United Nations (A/51/950), the Secretary-General included a number of proposals and actions that pertain to the humanitarian sector. Those reform measures aim primarily at strengthening the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator through enhanced focus on three core functions: policy development and coordination; advocacy of humanitarian issues; and coordination of humanitarian emergency response. They also address the functioning of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and field coordination arrangements, as well as the consolidated appeal process. It is expected that those proposals and actions, which relate to and would further

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enhance the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182, will be considered by the General Assembly at its current session.

4. Therefore, in the context of his reporting on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 46/182, the Secretary-General will report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session in 1998 on the implementation of the reform of the humanitarian sector of the United Nations as well as further progress by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations in humanitarian assistance.

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Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report updates information on the financial situation of the United Nations provided in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 May 1997 (A/51/515/Add.3). It also provides information on the financial situation of the Organization as at 30 September 1997 and cash-flow projections for 1997 and 1998.

II. Overview

2. Since the last report on this subject, the Secretary-General has presented his reform plan on 17 July 1997 and a private donor has indicated his intention to contribute $1 billion over 10 years to United Nations humanitarian activities. Neither of these developments, however, hold the immediate prospect of, or in the case of the $1 billion contribution any prospect, of alleviating the Organization's precarious financial situation. This situation is fundamentally caused by the late payment and non-payment by Member States of assessed contributions.

3. Late and non-payment of assessed contributions has become a recurring practice of many Member States. As a result, the Organization's financial situation today is characterized by continuing arrearage levels in absolute terms; mounting arrearage levels in relative terms; continuing shortages and persistent intervals of regular budget cash deficits; prolonged periods and increasing levels of borrowing from peacekeeping cash for regular budget purposes; and persistent levels of debt to Member States for troops and equipment. Each of these situations is financially destabilizing and taken together they undermine both stability and liquidity.

III. Unpaid assessments

4. At 30 September 1997, amounts for unpaid assessments aggregated $2.416 billion, comprising those for the regular budget, peacekeeping and the international tribunals. For peacekeeping, levels have more than doubled since 1992, for the regular budget they have been rising and an increasing arrearage has also emerged for the international tribunals, even though the figures for the latter are comparatively small.

5. Against unpaid assessments totalling $2.416 billion on 30 September 1997, assessments issued aggregated $2.26 billion. Unpaid assessments thus exceed the current year's assessments by a ratio of 1.07 to 1. In September 1995, by contrast, the ratio of unpaid contributions to current year's assessment stood at only 0.79, while it was only 0.61 in September 1992. As the ratio increases so does the measure of financial illiquidity. This relative deterioration is another measure of the Organization's dangerous financial situation, although there should be some improvement in weeks ahead

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as payments are received in respect of peacekeeping assessments issued in July and August.

6. The major contributor accounts for 60 per cent of all amounts owed to the Organization. The next 14 other principal contributors account for 28 per cent with most of the amount owed by two Member States. Other Member States owe 12 per cent of the aggregate unpaid assessment. While the major contributor accounts for a large part of unpaid assessments, many Member States also contribute to the aggregate unpaid amount. Only seven Member States were fully paid up as at 30 September 1997.

7. The arrearage situation for the regular budget is also of great concern. As at 30 September, 89 Member States had paid their contributions in full — for 1997 and all prior years. This is better than three years ago when only 66 Member States had paid in full, but not as good as last year when 91 had paid in full.

8. In monetary terms, outstanding contributions to the regular budget amounted to $649 million as at 30 September. Of that amount, $382 million is for the current year and $267 million relates to prior years.

9. The major contributor owes 77 per cent of the regular budget aggregate amount. Two of the other 15 principal contributors owe 9 per cent and all other Member States with outstanding contributions owe 14 per cent of the total.

10. The continuing high levels of unpaid assessments for the regular budget, international tribunals and peacekeeping are undermining the financial stability and liquidity of the Organization. The problem has not improved, it is getting worse and arrearage payments are desperately needed.

IV. Regular budget cash situation and forecast

1997 cash situation and forecast

11. At the end of September, collections totalled $972 million against regular budget assessments comprising both payment of current year's assessments and prior years' assessments paid during the current year. Of the aggregate amount, $803 million was contributed by the 15 largest contributing Member States and $169 million by all others.

12. At 30 September 1997, 88 per cent of the amount assessed for 1997 had been collected. That figure compares the amount assessed for 1997 with collections made in 1997, regardless of whether the collection relates to 1997 assessments or prior year assessments. Last year the percentage was comparable at 87 per cent. Both 1996 and 1997 were better than 1994 and 1995 when only 70 and 72 per cent, respectively, of the amounts of assessment had been collected.

13. For the rest of 1997, it is estimated that total cash collections will be approximately $1.15 billion compared with $1.2 billion in 1996 and $1.1 billion in 1995. The 1997 estimate of cash collections, at $1.2 billion, is lower by over $50 million than previously forecast. The shortfall in the estimate reflects the most recent information provided by the major contributor as to that Member State's total contributions to be paid in 1997. Similar information was requested of several other major contributors who confirmed no change in their earlier estimates.

14. In addition to the fact that contributions are lower than expected, expenditures are running $20 million higher than previously estimated. Accordingly, the current forecast of cash balances at year end 1997 is some $70 million less favourable than the forecast presented earlier in the year.

15. It is now forecast that 1997 will end with a deficit of $272 million. During early and mid-1997, cash balances rose and fell, reflecting prompt payment of regular budget assessments by a number of Member States in January and February and significant collections in May and June from a few Member States. After June, there was a month-by-month fall in the cash balance, until the negative year-end forecast position.

16. With a projected deficit in 1997, one more year is added to a pattern of cash deficits in the regular budget account. Through 1994, there had been a pattern of modest and short-lived negative cash balances each year around 30 September with collections in October erasing the negative balance. In the years through 1994, there was a positive year-end cash balance. In 1995 the pattern changed.

17. Beginning in 1995, both the depth of negative cash balances and the number of months the regular budget was in deficit increased. Every year since 1994, the year ended with major deficit positions and with maximum amounts of deficit frequently occurring in even larger amounts. Deficit periods of four or more months became the norm.

1998 forecast

18. Forecasting is inherently subject to a large number of variables that become more difficult to estimate the longer the forecast period. Despite this limitation, a regular budget cash forecast for the year 1998 was attempted, concentrating primarily on discernable patterns of contributions drawn from earlier years' experience.

19. Where large arrearage payments were indicated as a possibility by Member States, such estimates were not included if legislative action was required. A number of Member States were queried as to the possibility of arrearage payments, but only one Member State advised that legislation was expected that would result in a significant arrearage payment. With legislation still pending, however, the anticipated payment was not included in the 1998 forecast and as such the regular budget cash forecast in 1998 shows no real change from the 1997 cash position. A negative cash balance of $261 million is forecast at year end with the negative position predicted to persist for five months in 1998.

V. Peacekeeping cash situation and forecasts

1997 cash situation and forecast

20. At the beginning of 1997, aggregate cash for peacekeeping operations totalled $874 million, while at the end of September usable peacekeeping cash aggregated $745 million.

21. As previously predicted for 1997, disbursements exceeded receipts from May through August. The same situation is also expected in the last two months of the year. Projections show total disbursements exceeding receipts by $204 million. This reflects expenditures under the liquidation phase of several peacekeeping missions that are not balanced by the collection of corresponding assessments. It also reflects the application of some of the accumulated credits in respect of the unencumbered balances of peacekeeping missions, the application of which the General Assembly had earlier delayed. In view of this, it is now forecast that peacekeeping cash at year end will fall to $670 million.

Reimbursements to troop and equipment providers

22. Peacekeeping cash during 1997 peaked in April, when cash balances stood at $999 million. At that point, no significant payments to troop and equipment contributors had been made. It is the intention of the Secretary-General to compensate Member States in 1997 for approximately the amount of obligations incurred by the Organization this year for troops and equipment. Furthermore, he intends to reduce the amount of aggregate arrearage in payments for troops and equipment when Member States remit substantial amounts of arrears of assessed contributions. In 1996, when the Russian Federation paid over $200 million in arrears, this was used at the end of 1996 to pay down the aggregate amounts owed to Member States for troops and equipment.

23. Over the last several months, payments totalling $155 million have already been disbursed to troop and equipment providers. In the next few weeks an additional payment of $65 million is expected to be made. It is envisaged that later in the year the total reimbursement figure for 1997 will reach $270 million.

24. As no Member State has advised the Secretary-General of its intention to make a significant arrearage payment for peacekeeping in 1997, no such amounts have been included in the forecast and no special year-end payment to troop and equipment providers is anticipated. Additionally, as periodically occurs, amounts owed to Member States for contingent-owned equipment have been revalued. This has resulted in an upward adjustment of $100 million.

25. As a result of these two factors, at the end of 1997, amounts owed to troop- and equipment-contributing countries will total $907 million, considerably higher than the $838 million at the end of 1996.

1998 forecast

26. Forecasting is inherently very difficult for peacekeeping, given the changing levels of assessment, unpredictable frequency of assessment, uncertain timing as to the application of credits and changing troop and equipment requirements. As a result, no attempt has been made to forecast 1998 peacekeeping cash as was done for the 1997 forecast. Nonetheless, certain elements of a 1998 forecast may be of interest, based on experience gained over the years in projecting the level of activity, remittance and expenditure patterns and limited input from Member States.

27. In this connection, one Member State indicated that a substantial peacekeeping arrearage payment was likely to be paid, but the payment was uncertain as to timing and, additionally, legislation was required. The 1998 forecast does not, therefore, anticipate that payment.

28. It is forecast for 1998 that the level of activity will be somewhat lower than in 1997, at about $1 billion. With this level of activity, troop and equipment requirements would be expected to range between $220 million and $250 million. It is therefore expected that collection of assessments will permit payments to Member States in 1998 of amounts in a similar range. With no arrearage payments foreseen by any Member State, no significant additional payment of the accumulated troop and equipment obligation by year-end 1998 is expected.

VI. Combined cash and cross borrowing

29. At each year end over the last couple of years, the amount of combined cash balances has been less than that of the year before. At 31 December 1997, combined regular budget and peacekeeping cash is forecast at $398 million while in 1995 the aggregate amount totalled $728 million. Amounts for 1997 are about half of the 1995 amount, showing a steady decline in only two years' time.

30. The extent of deterioration is shown by comparing figures at the end of 1997 with those for 1994. Combined cash is not much different — $398 million in 1997 against $453 million in 1994, but the deficit in regular budget cash has grown ten times over, from a negative $26 million in 1996, to a negative $272 million in 1997 and an estimated negative $261 million in 1998, resulting in high levels of peacekeeping cash being held to cover the regular budget cash deficit.

VII. Conclusion

31. The Organization's financial status reflects continuing arrearage in assessment collections; continuing deficits in regular budget cash; extensive cross borrowings of peacekeeping cash; and levels of debt to Member States that cannot be liquidated.

32. In the past few years the Organization has reached a point where it has little, if any, financial flexibility and is highly illiquid. The United Nations is highly dependent on the level of peacekeeping activity and the forbearance of troop and equipment providers.

33. The collection of arrears remains the key to the restoration of the Organization's financial stability.

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Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 51/87 of 12 December 1996, entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session on measures taken to implement the resolution and on obstacles to its implementation. The present report has been prepared pursuant to that request.

II. Issues dealt with by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/87 requiring action by the Secretary-General or the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operation of the human rights treaty bodies

2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly emphasized the need to ensure financing and adequate staff and information resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies, and with that in mind: (a) reiterated its request that the Secretary-General provide adequate resources in respect of each treaty body; and (b) called upon the Secretary-General to make the most efficient use of existing resources and to seek the resources necessary to give the treaty bodies adequate administrative support, access to technical expertise and access to appropriate databases and on-line information services.

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1. Resources and administrative support

3. The five international human rights instruments with monitoring mechanisms currently supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights are the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

4. The work of the staff assigned to provide support to the respective treaty bodies is mainly associated with: (a) the State reporting procedures under all five human rights instruments; (b) the individual complaints procedures under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and (c) the inquiry procedure under article 20 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Another important mandate concerns the inter-State complaints procedure under all but the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The latter procedure has not yet been resorted to by any State party.

5. The new management structure of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights based on three management units was put in place as from 30 September 1996. All Secretariat activities supporting the treaty bodies, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and related working groups as well as a number of voluntary funds were grouped together in the Support Services Branch.

6. The Support Services Branch is also responsible for the Plan of Action for the Strengthening of the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, after sufficient funding was received from donor Governments, became operational in July 1997, and for the Plan of Action for Strengthening the Implementation of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will be launched as soon as sufficient voluntary contributions have been received.

2. Access to technical expertise, appropriate databases and on-line information

7. The full-text information retrieval and database system initially developed for the Convention on the Rights of the Child has recently been expanded and made operational with respect to other human rights treaties even though not all the data entry and downloading of full-text documents have been completed. In addition, office space with appropriate electronic equipment has been made available within the Office of the High Commissioner to treaty body experts as from November 1996 as had been requested by them for many years.

B. Analytical study comparing provisions of the human rights treaties

8. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a detailed analytical study comparing the provisions of the principal human rights treaties with a view to identifying duplication of reporting under those instruments. Pursuant to that resolution, a preliminary analysis of the international human rights treaties, offering guidance on the cross-referencing of treaty provisions as a means of reducing the burden of State reporting, has been undertaken by the secretariat. The chairpersons reviewed the analysis and the recommendations contained therein at their eighth meeting in September 1997. The Secretariat has taken note of the views of the chairpersons and shall continue working on the analytical study with a view to submitting it to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

C. Final report of the independent expert on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the treaty system

9. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to encourage Mr. Philip Alston, the independent expert appointed to undertake the study, to finalize his interim report in time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session.

10. Mr. Alston submitted his final report to the fifty-third session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1997/74, annex). Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights decision 1997/105, the Secretary-General has solicited the views of United Nations bodies, Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and interested persons on the report of the independent expert. The principal recommendations of the independent expert

are contained in paragraphs 110 to 122 of his report. The report was also discussed during the eighth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, which was held at Geneva from 15 to 19 September 1997 (see the annex to the note by the Secretary-General, to be issued as a document of the General Assembly at its fifty-second session).

D. Revision of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting

11. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner to ensure, from within existing resources, that the revision of the United Nations *Manual on Human Rights Reporting* was available in all languages as soon as possible. The revised *Manual* includes a chapter on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as requested by the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies. The revision and updating of the *Manual* was undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner in collaboration with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO) at Turin, Italy, and in consultation with treaty body experts. The revised *Manual* was published in September 1997 in English, a Russian version is to be published in the near future and the other language versions are in the process of preparation. It may be noted in this connection that the *Manual* has been developed into a training package composed of several distinct elements: the *Manual*; a trainer's guide and its annexes, including training tools; and a pocket guide for participants in training courses.

E. Dissemination of documentation on human rights

12. In paragraph 16 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner to make every effort to ensure that recent reports and the summary records of committee discussions pertaining to them, as well as concluding observations and final comments of the treaty bodies, be made available in the United Nations information centres in the countries submitting those reports.

13. Extensive consultations between the then Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information took place to explore ways and means to implement the General Assembly's request. A procedure has been put in place to ensure that reports submitted by States parties to treaty bodies and the concluding observations of treaty bodies be made available to the relevant United Nations information centres prior to and after the consideration of treaty implementation in a given State party. In addition, these documents are being made available on the Website of the Office of the High Commissioner on the Internet (www.unhchr.ch). This issue was also discussed by the chairpersons during their eighth meeting in September 1997.

F. Further cooperation between specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and the human rights treaty bodies

14. In paragraphs 17 and 18 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly invited the specialized agencies, other United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies to continue to pursue further cooperation between them.

15. In accordance with a recommendation made by the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies at their seventh meeting in September 1996 (A/51/482, annex, para. 53), the High Commissioner invited high-level officials of specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to meet with the chairpersons during their eighth meeting held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 15 to 19 September 1997, in order to discuss concrete proposals and practical arrangements to enhance cooperation between United Nations specialized agencies and organs on the one hand, and human rights treaty bodies on the other hand.

16. At the eighth meeting of chairpersons, representatives of, *inter alia*, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) made concrete proposals. In particular, the Chairpersons recommended that each treaty body give careful attention to the measures that it might take in relation to the relevant human rights aspects of HIV/AIDS, including, where appropriate, adopting or revising general comments and recommendations, amending reporting guidelines, and addressing those issues in their dialogue with States parties and in their concluding observations. The Chairpersons also noted the meeting hosted by UNFPA, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the then Centre for Human Rights at Glen Cove, New York, in December 1996, at which specific guidelines and recommendations on sexual and reproductive rights were adopted. The Chairpersons recommended that a seminar on gender perspective be convened in the near future.

17. In pursuance of the recommendation of the persons chairing the treaty bodies to enhance cooperation between the treaty bodies and the special rapporteurs, representatives and experts, Ms. Ivanka Corti, chairperson of the seventh meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies, participated in the fourth meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 to 23 May 1997. In turn, Mr. Sergio Pinheiro, chairperson of that meeting, addressed the eighth meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies in September 1997.

G. Coordination and consultation by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on measures by human rights treaty bodies in response to massive violations of human rights

18. In paragraph 23 of its resolution 51/87, the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner to coordinate and consult throughout the United Nations system in regard to measures that might be taken by human rights treaty bodies in response to situations of massive human rights violations.

19. It may be recalled that the question of measures that treaty bodies might take in response to situations of massive human rights violations and the coordination of action with other United Nations organs and bodies in that regard was at the heart of a meeting between the Secretary-General and the persons chairing human rights treaty bodies that was held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 June 1995 with the participation of the High Commissioner.

20. At their seventh meeting in September 1996 (see A/51/482, annex), the chairpersons recommended that treaty bodies increasingly consult United Nations organs and bodies, including special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, exchange information and utilize existing expertise in order to detect and respond appropriately to situations of massive violations of human rights.

21. Those recommendations were brought to the attention of the fourth meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Advisory Services Programme in May 1997. It was agreed that cooperation between the special procedures system and the treaty bodies should be strengthened in cases that called for the sending of urgent action appeals.

provided for in article 41 of the Covenant; encouraged the States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations they lodge to the International Covenants on Human Rights, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to ensure that no reservation was incompatible with the object and purpose of the relevant treaty or otherwise contrary to international law; and encouraged them to review regularly any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the Covenants with a view to withdrawing them. The Assembly once again encouraged all Governments to publish the texts of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in as many local languages as possible and to distribute them and make them known as widely as possible in their territories. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-second session a report on the status of the Covenants and the Optional Protocols.

4. As at 1 September 1997, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 136 States, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 138 States and the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been ratified or acceded to by 92 States. The list of States that have ratified or acceded to the Covenants and the Optional Protocol, together with the dates of ratifications or accession and of entry into force, appear in annexes I to III to the present report.

5. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty, and called upon all Governments in a position to do so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Second Optional Protocol.

6. The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights entered into force on 11 July 1991, three months after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the tenth instrument of ratification or accession. As at 1 September 1997, the Second Optional Protocol had been ratified or acceded to by 31 States. The list of States that have ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol, together with the dates of ratification or accession and of entry into force, is contained in annex IV to the present report.

7. Upon ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or subsequently, the Governments of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Congo, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, the Gambia, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zimbabwe made the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant, recognizing the competence of the Human Rights Committee established under article 28 of the Covenant to receive and

consider communications to the effect that a State party claims that another State party is not fulfilling its obligations under the Covenant. The provisions of article 41 entered into force on 28 March 1979 in accordance with paragraph 2 of that article.

8. As regards the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, held its thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 November to 20 December 1995, 30 April to 17 May and 18 November to 6 December 1996 and 28 April to 16 May 1997, respectively. It submitted reports to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive sessions of 1996 and of 1997[2] in which it made suggestions and recommendations concerning issues arising from the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant.

9. As regards the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Human Rights Committee held its fifty-fifth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 16 October to 3 November 1995, its fifty-sixth session at United Nations Headquarters from 18 March to 4 April 1996 and its fifty-seventh session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 8 to 26 July 1996. The fifty-eighth session was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 21 October to 8 November 1996; the fifty-ninth session was held at United Nations Headquarters from 24 March to 11 April 1997; and the sixtieth session was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 14 July to 1 August 1997. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant and article 6 of the First Optional Protocol, the Committee submitted its annual reports to the General Assembly at its fifty-first and fifty-second sessions,[3] covering the activities of the Committee at its above-mentioned sessions.

Notes

[1] Article 27 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, article 49 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 9 of the First Optional Protocol.

[2] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 3 (E/1996/22); and ibid., 1997, Supplement No. 2 (E/1997/22).

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/51/40); ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/52/40).

ANNEX I

List of States that have ratified or acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as at 1 September 1997 (138)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Afghanistan	24 January 1983[a]	24 April 1983
Albania	4 October 1991[a]	4 January 1992
Algeria	12 September 1989	12 December 1989
Angola	10 January 1992[a]	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986	8 November 1986
Armenia	13 September 1993	13 December 1993
Australia	10 December 1975	10 March 1976
Austria	10 September 1978	10 December 1978
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992[a]	13 November 1992
Barbados	5 January 1973[a]	3 January 1976
Belarus	12 November 1973	3 January 1976
Belgium	21 April 1983	21 July 1983
Benin	12 March 1992[a]	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982[a]	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993[b]	6 March 1992
Brazil	24 January 1992[a]	24 April 1992
Bulgaria	21 September 1970	3 January 1976
Burundi	9 May 1990[a]	9 August 1990
Cambodia	26 May 1992[a]	26 August 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984[a]	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976[a]	19 August 1976
Cape Verde	6 August 1993[a]	6 November 1993
Central African Republic	8 May 1981[a]	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995[a]	9 September 1995
Chile	10 February 1972	3 January 1976

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
China*	29 October 1969	3 January 1976
Colombia	5 October 1983[a]	5 January 1984
Congo	29 November 1968	3 January 1976
Costa Rica	26 March 1992[a]	26 June 1992
Côte d'Ivoire	8 October 1991[b]	8 October 1991
Croatia	2 April 1969	3 January 1976
Cyprus	22 February 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Czech Republic		
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 September 1981[a]	14 December 1981
Denmark	6 January 1972	3 January 1976
Dominica	17 June 1993[a]	17 September 1993
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978[a]	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	3 January 1976
Egypt	14 January 1982	14 April 1982
El Salvador	30 November 1979	29 February 1980

* Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 on the restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, by a note addressed to the Secretary-General, received on 29 September 1972, stated:

"1. With regard to the multilateral treaties signed, ratified or acceded to by the defunct Chinese Government before the establishment of the People's Republic of China, my Government will examine all their contents before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be recognized.

"2. As from 1 October 1949, the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Chiang Kai-Shek clique has no right at all to represent China. Its signature and ratification of, or accession to, any multilateral treaties by usurping the name of 'China' are all illegal and null and void. My Government will study these multilateral treaties before making a decision in the light of the circumstances as to whether or not they should be acceded to."

The lists in annexes I and II therefore do not include the signature of the two International Covenants and the Optional Protocol on behalf of the "Republic of China" on 5 October 1967.

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987[a]	25 December 1987
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	21 January 1992
Ethiopia	11 June 1993[a]	11 September 1993
Finland	19 August 1975	3 January 1976
France	4 November 1980[a]	4 February 1981
Gabon	21 January 1983[a]	21 April 1983
Gambia	29 December 1978[a]	29 March 1979
Georgia	3 May 1994[a]	3 August 1994
Germany	17 December 1973	3 January 1976
Greece	16 May 1985[a]	16 August 1985
Grenada	6 September 1991[a]	6 December 1991
Guatemala	19 May 1988[a]	19 August 1988
Guinea	24 January 1978	24 April 1978
Guinea-Bissau	2 July 1992[a]	2 October 1992
Guyana	15 February 1977	15 May 1977
Honduras	17 February 1981[a]	17 May 1981
Hungary	17 January 1974	3 January 1976
Iceland	22 August 1979	22 November 1979
India	10 April 1979[a]	10 July 1979
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 June 1975	3 January 1976
Iraq	25 January 1971	3 January 1976
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Israel	3 October 1991	3 January 1992
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	3 January 1976
Japan	21 June 1979	21 September 1979
Jordan	28 May 1975	3 January 1976
Kenya	1 May 1972[a]	3 January 1976
Kuwait	20 May 1996[a]	20 August 1996
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994	7 January 1995
Latvia	14 April 1992[a]	14 July 1992
Lebanon	3 November 1972[a]	3 January 1976
Lesotho	9 September 1992[a]	9 December 1992
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 May 1970[a]	3 January 1976
Lithuania	20 November 1991[a]	20 February 1992

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Luxembourg	18 August 1983	18 November 1983
Madagascar	22 September 1971[a]	3 January 1976
Malawi	22 December 1993[a]	22 March 1994
Mali	16 July 1974[a]	3 January 1976
Malta	13 September 1990	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973[a]	3 January 1976
Mexico	23 March 1981[a]	23 June 1981
Mongolia	18 November 1974	3 January 1976
Morocco	3 May 1979	3 August 1979
Namibia	22 December 1993[a]	22 March 1994
Nepal	14 May 1991[a]	14 August 1991
Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	28 December 1978	28 March 1979
Nicaragua	12 March 1980[a]	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986[a]	7 June 1986
Nigeria	29 July 1993[a]	29 October 1993
Norway	13 September 1972	3 January 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977
Paraguay	10 June 1992[a]	10 September 1992
Peru	28 April 1978	28 July 1978
Philippines	7 June 1974	3 January 1976
Poland	18 March 1977	18 June 1977
Portugal	31 July 1978	31 October 1978
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990[a]	10 July 1990
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993[a]	26 April 1993
Romania	9 December 1974	3 January 1976
Russian Federation	16 October 1973	3 January 1976
Rwanda	16 April 1975[a]	3 January 1976
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981[a]	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985[a]	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978
Seychelles	5 May 1992[a]	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	23 August 1996[a]	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992[a]	6 July 1992

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Solomon Islands	17 March 1982[b]	17 March 1982
Somalia	24 January 1990[a]	24 April 1990
Spain	27 April 1977	27 July 1977
Sri Lanka	11 June 1980[a]	11 September 1980
Sudan	18 March 1986[a]	18 June 1986
Suriname	28 December 1976[a]	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	3 January 1976
Switzerland	18 June 1992[a]	18 September 1992
Syrian Arab Republic	21 April 1969[a]	3 January 1976
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994[b]	17 September 1991
Togo	24 May 1984[a]	24 August 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	8 December 1978[a]	8 March 1979
Tunisia	18 March 1969	3 January 1976
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997[a]	1 August 1996
Uganda	21 January 1987[a]	21 April 1987
Ukraine	12 November 1973	3 January 1976
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 May 1976	20 August 1976
United Republic of Tanzania	11 June 1976[a]	11 September 1976
Uruguay	1 April 1970	3 January 1976
Uzbekistan	27 September 1995[a]	27 December 1996
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Viet Nam	24 September 1982[a]	24 December 1982
Yemen	9 February 1987[a]	9 May 1987
Yugoslavia	2 June 1971	3 January 1976
Zaire	1 November 1976[a]	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984[a]	10 July 1984
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991[a]	13 August 1991

ANNEX II

List of States that have ratified or acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as at 1 September 1997 (138)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Afghanistan	24 January 1983[a]	24 April 1983
Albania	4 October 1991[a]	4 January 1992
Algeria	12 September 1989	12 December 1989
Angola	10 January 1992[a]	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986	8 November 1986
Armenia	23 June 1993	23 September 1993
Australia	13 August 1980	13 November 1980
Austria	10 September 1978	10 December 1978
Azerbaijan	13 August 1992[a]	13 November 1992
Barbados	5 January 1973[a]	23 March 1976
Belarus	12 November 1973	23 March 1976
Belgium	21 April 1983	21 July 1983
Belize	9 June 1996[a]	9 September 1996
Benin	12 March 1992[a]	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982[a]	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 September 1993[b]	6 March 1992
Brazil	24 January 1992[a]	24 April 1992
Bulgaria	21 September 1970	23 March 1976
Burundi	9 May 1990[a]	9 August 1990
Cambodia	26 May 1992[a]	26 August 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984[a]	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976[a]	19 August 1976
Cape Verde	6 August 1993[a]	6 November 1993
Central African Republic	8 May 1981[a]	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995[a]	9 September 1995
Chile	10 February 1972	23 March 1976
Colombia	29 October 1969	23 March 1976
Congo	5 October 1983[a]	5 January 1984
Costa Rica	29 November 1968	23 March 1976
Côte d'Ivoire	26 March 1992[a]	26 June 1992

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Croatia	8 October 1991[b]	8 October 1991
Cyprus	2 April 1969	23 March 1976
Czech Republic	22 February 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	14 September 1981[a]	14 December 1981
Denmark	6 January 1972	23 March 1976
Dominica	17 June 1993[a]	17 September 1993
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978[a]	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	23 March 1976
Egypt	14 January 1982	14 April 1982
El Salvador	30 November 1979	29 February 1980
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987[a]	25 December 1987
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	21 January 1992
Ethiopia	11 June 1993[a]	11 September 1993
Finland	19 August 1975	23 March 1976
France	4 November 1980[a]	4 February 1981
Gabon	21 January 1983[a]	21 April 1983
Gambia	22 March 1979[a]	22 June 1979
Georgia	3 May 1994[a]	3 August 1994
Germany	17 December 1973	23 March 1976
Greece	5 May 1997[a]	5 August 1997
Grenada	6 September 1991[a]	6 December 1991
Guatemala	6 May 1992[a]	5 August 1992
Guinea	24 January 1978	24 April 1978
Guyana	15 February 1977	15 May 1977
Haiti	6 February 1991[a]	6 May 1991
Hungary	17 January 1974	23 March 1976
Iceland	22 August 1979	22 November 1979
India	10 April 1979[a]	10 July 1979
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24 June 1975	23 March 1976
Iraq	25 January 1971	23 March 1976
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Israel	3 October 1991[a]	3 January 1992
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	23 March 1976
Japan	21 June 1979	21 September 1979

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Jordan	28 May 1975	23 March 1976
Kenya	1 May 1972[a]	23 March 1976
Kuwait	20 May 1996[a]	20 August 1996
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994[a]	7 January 1995
Latvia	14 April 1992[a]	14 July 1992
Lebanon	3 November 1972[a]	23 March 1976
Lesotho	9 September 1992[a]	9 December 1992
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 May 1970[a]	23 March 1976
Lithuania	20 November 1991[a]	20 February 1992
Luxembourg	18 August 1983	18 November 1983
Madagascar	21 June 1971	23 March 1976
Malawi	22 December 1993[a]	22 March 1994
Mali	16 July 1974[a]	23 March 1976
Malta	13 September 1990[a]	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973[a]	23 March 1976
Mexico	23 March 1981[a]	23 June 1981
Mongolia	18 November 1974	23 March 1976
Morocco	3 May 1979	3 August 1979
Mozambique	21 July 1993[a]	21 October 1993
Namibia	28 November 1994[a]	28 February 1995
Nepal	14 May 1991	14 August 1991
Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	28 December 1978	28 March 1979
Nicaragua	12 March 1980[a]	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986[a]	7 June 1986
Nigeria	29 July 1993[a]	29 October 1993
Norway	13 September 1972	23 March 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977
Paraguay	10 June 1992[a]	10 September 1992
Peru	28 April 1978	28 July 1978
Philippines	23 October 1986	23 January 1987
Poland	18 March 1977	18 June 1977
Portugal	15 June 1978	15 September 1978
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990[a]	10 July 1990
Republic of Moldova	26 January 1993[a]	26 April 1993

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Romania	9 December 1974	23 March 1976
Russian Federation	16 October 1973	23 March 1976
Rwanda	16 April 1975[a]	23 March 1976
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981[a]	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985[a]	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978
Seychelles	5 May 1992[a]	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	23 August 1996[a]	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992[b]	6 July 1992
Somalia	24 January 1990[a]	24 April 1990
Spain	27 April 1977	27 July 1977
Sri Lanka	11 June 1980[a]	11 September 1980
Sudan	18 March 1986[a]	18 June 1986
Suriname	28 December 1976[a]	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	23 March 1976
Switzerland	18 June 1992[a]	18 September 1992
Syrian Arab Republic	21 April 1969[a]	23 March 1976
Thailand	29 October 1996[a]	29 January 1997
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994[b]	17 September 1991
Togo	24 May 1984[a]	24 August 1984
Trinidad and Tobago	21 December 1978[a]	21 March 1979
Tunisia	18 March 1969	23 March 1976
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997[a]	1 August 1997
Uganda	20 June 1995[a]	20 September 1995
Ukraine	12 November 1973	23 March 1976
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20 May 1976	20 August 1976
United Republic of Tanzania	11 June 1976[a]	11 September 1976
United States of America	8 June 1992	8 September 1992
Uruguay	1 April 1970	23 March 1976

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Uzbekistan	27 September 1995[a]	27 December 1995
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Viet Nam	24 September 1982[a]	24 December 1982
Yemen	9 February 1987[a]	9 May 1987
Yugoslavia	2 June 1971	23 March 1976
Zaire	1 November 1976[a]	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984 (a)	10 July 1984
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991 (a)	13 August 1991

ANNEX III

List of States that have ratified or acceded to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as at 1 September 1997 (92)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Algeria	12 September 1989[a]	12 December 1990
Angola	10 January 1992[a]	10 April 1992
Argentina	8 August 1986[a]	8 November 1986
Armenia	23 June 1993	23 September 1993
Australia	25 September 1991[a]	25 December 1991
Austria	10 December 1987	10 March 1988
Barbados	5 January 1973[a]	23 March 1976
Belarus	30 September 1992[a]	30 December 1992
Belgium	17 May 1994	17 August 1994
Benin	12 March 1992[a]	12 June 1992
Bolivia	12 August 1982[a]	12 November 1982
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 March 1995	1 June 1995
Bulgaria	26 March 1992[a]	26 June 1992
Cameroon	27 June 1984[a]	27 September 1984
Canada	19 May 1976[a]	19 August 1976
Central African Republic	8 May 1981[a]	8 August 1981
Chad	9 June 1995[a]	9 September 1995
Chile	28 May 1992[a]	28 August 1992
Colombia	29 October 1969	23 March 1976
Congo	5 October 1983[a]	5 January 1984
Costa Rica	29 November 1968	23 March 1976
Côte d'Ivoire	5 March 1997[a]	5 June 1997
Croatia	11 October 1995[a]	11 January 1996
Cyprus	15 April 1992	15 July 1992
Czech Republic	22 February 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Denmark	6 January 1972	23 March 1976
Dominican Republic	4 January 1978[a]	4 April 1978
Ecuador	6 March 1969	23 March 1976
El Salvador	6 June 1995	6 September 1995
Equatorial Guinea	25 September 1987[a]	25 December 1987

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Estonia	21 October 1991[a]	21 January 1992
Finland	19 August 1975	23 March 1976
France	17 February 1984[a]	17 May 1984
Gambia	9 June 1988[a]	9 September 1988
Georgia	3 May 1994[a]	3 August 1994
Germany	25 August 1993	25 November 1993
Greece	5 May 1997[a]	5 August 1997
Guinea	17 June 1993	17 September 1993
Guyana	10 May 1993[a]	10 August 1993
Hungary	7 September 1988[a]	7 December 1988
Iceland	22 August 1979[a]	22 November 1979
Ireland	8 December 1989	8 March 1990
Italy	15 September 1978	15 December 1978
Jamaica	3 October 1975	23 March 1976
Kyrgyzstan	7 October 1994[a]	7 January 1995
Latvia	22 June 1994	22 September 1994
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989[a]	16 August 1989
Lithuania	20 November 1991[a]	20 February 1992
Luxembourg	18 August 1983[a]	18 November 1983
Madagascar	21 June 1971	23 March 1976
Malawi	10 June 1996[a]	10 September 1996
Malta	13 September 1990[a]	13 December 1990
Mauritius	12 December 1973[a]	23 March 1976
Mongolia	16 April 1991[a]	16 July 1991
Namibia	28 November 1994[a]	28 February 1995
Nepal	14 May 1991[a]	14 August 1991
Netherlands	11 December 1978	11 March 1979
New Zealand	26 May 1989[a]	26 August 1989
Nicaragua	12 March 1980[a]	12 June 1980
Niger	7 March 1986[a]	7 June 1986
Norway	13 September 1972	23 March 1976
Panama	8 March 1977	8 June 1977
Paraguay	10 January 1995	10 April 1995
Peru	3 October 1980	3 January 1981
Philippines	22 August 1989[a]	22 November 1989

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification, accession[a] or succession[b]	Date of entry into force
Poland	7 November 1991[a]	7 February 1992
Portugal	3 May 1983	3 August 1983
Republic of Korea	10 April 1990[a]	10 July 1990
Romania	20 July 1993[a]	20 October 1993
Russian Federation	1 October 1991[a]	1 January 1992
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9 November 1981[a]	9 February 1982
San Marino	18 October 1985[a]	18 January 1986
Senegal	13 February 1978	13 May 1978
Seychelles	5 May 1992[a]	5 August 1992
Sierra Leone	23 August 1996[a]	23 November 1996
Slovakia	28 May 1993[b]	1 January 1993
Slovenia	16 July 1993[a]	16 October 1993
Somalia	24 January 1990[a]	24 April 1990
Spain	25 January 1985[a]	25 April 1985
Suriname	28 December 1976[a]	28 March 1977
Sweden	6 December 1971	23 March 1976
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	12 December 1994[a]	12 March 1995
Togo	30 March 1988[a]	30 June 1988
Trinidad and Tobago	14 November 1980[a]	14 February 1981
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997[a]	1 August 1997
Uganda	14 November 1995[a]	14 February 1996
Ukraine	25 July 1991[a]	25 October 1991
Uruguay	1 April 1970	23 March 1976
Uzbekistan	27 September 1995[a]	7 December 1995
Venezuela	10 May 1978	10 August 1978
Zaire	1 November 1976[a]	1 February 1977
Zambia	10 April 1984[a]	10 July 1984

ANNEX IV

List of States that have ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as at 1 September 1997 (31)

State party	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession[a]	Date of entry into force
Australia	2 October 1990[a]	11 July 1991
Austria	2 March 1993	2 June 1993
Colombia	5 August 1997[a]	5 November 1997
Croatia	11 October 1995[a]	11 January 1996
Denmark	24 February 1994	24 May 1994
Ecuador	23 February 1993[a]	23 May 1993
Finland	4 April 1991	11 July 1991
Germany	18 August 1992	18 November 1992
Greece	5 May 1997[a]	5 August 1997
Hungary	24 February 1994	24 May 1994
Iceland	2 April 1991	11 July 1991
Ireland	18 June 1993[a]	18 September 1993
Italy	14 February 1995	14 May 1995
Luxembourg	12 February 1992	12 May 1992
Malta	29 December 1994	29 March 1995
Mozambique	21 July 1993[a]	21 October 1993
Namibia	28 November 1994[a]	
Netherlands	27 February 1991	11 July 1991
New Zealand	22 February 1990	11 July 1991
Norway	5 September 1991	5 December 1991
Panama	21 January 1993[a]	21 April 1993
Portugal	17 October 1990	11 July 1991
Romania	27 February 1991	11 July 1991
Seychelles	15 December 1994[a]	15 March 1995
Slovenia	10 March 1994	10 June 1994
Spain	11 April 1991	11 July 1991
Sweden	11 May 1990	11 July 1991
Switzerland	16 June 1994[a]	16 September 1994
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	26 January 1995[a]	26 April 1995
Uruguay	21 January 1993	21 April 1993
Venezuela	22 February 1993	22 May 1993

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Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, I have the honour to enclose herewith the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1997.

I would greatly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 11, 18, 21, 30, 35, 36, 37, 41, 51, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 64, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88, 92, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 117, 120, 142, 146, 150, 151 and 152 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio LONDOÑO PAREDES
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, issued on 25 September 1997

1. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned countries met on 25 September 1997, to coordinate their efforts and establish guidelines to enable the members of the Movement to work in a collective manner on matters of common interest and concern.

2. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation received with appreciation the report of the Chairman on the activities of the Movement since the XII Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi on 7 and 8 April, 1997, which contributed to the strengthening and to the promotion of the unity and solidarity among the members of the Movement.

3. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation commended the outcome of the meeting of Ministers in charge of Culture of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in Medellín, Colombia on 4 and 5 of September, 1997. They commended also the Chairmanship of the Movement for the establishment of the Ad Hoc Panel of Economists of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in accordance with the mandate given by the Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi on 7 and 8 April, 1997.

4. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction with regards to the meetings of the Ministers for Foreign affairs from the former Chair-Countries of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), as well as the tasks performed by the representatives from Colombia, as current NAM Chair-country, Indonesia, as former NAM Chairman, and South Africa, as future NAM Chair-Country, to enhance the role of the Movement and promote the dialogue with the developed countries. They agreed upon the importance of giving continuity to those support mechanisms. In this regard, they underlined the importance of the participation of all members of the Movement through the NAM Coordinating Bureau, in shaping the agenda of these meetings. They also agreed that the outcome of the meetings be timely reported to the Coordinating Bureau.

5. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the Russian-Chinese joint statement issued in Moscow on April 22, 1997 and the Chinese-French joint statement issued in

Beijing on May 15, 1997. They welcomed the ideas contained in the statements, of not accepting a unipolar world order and the call for the establishment of a multipolar world order. TheyThe Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation called on the Movement to consolidate this trend with a view to create a just international system based on the principles of the UN Charter, international law, and democratization of relations among the member States of the international community.

6. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction regarding the message conveyed by H.E. Ernesto Samper Pizano, Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to H.E. William J. Clinton, Chairman of the Summit of the G-8 held in Denver, in keeping with the mandate contained in "The Call from Colombia", adopted by the Heads of State or Government at the Eleventh Summit and as elaborated in the final document of the XII Ministerial meeting held in New Delhi. They emphasized the importance for the Movement to continue its consultations with the G-8 with a view to promote a meaningful and productive dialogue so as to reach better understanding and to respond more positively to the development aspirations of the developing countries.

7. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation acknowledged the importance of the initiatives as contained in the report of the Secretary General entitled: "Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform" which contains proposals that cover diverse aspects of the functioning of the organization. They pointed out that there are certain measures and proposals in the Report of the Secretary General that deserve the support of the Movement and others that require further elaboration, refinement and discussion. The relevant issues will be the subject of pronouncements in the General Assembly.

8. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation agreed to thoroughly consider and review all elements of the reform proposal through agreed inter-governmental mechanism(s). They reiterated the readiness of the Movement to actively and constructively contribute to this process.

9. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underscored that the reform process should preserve and promote the centrality and sanctity of the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and General Assembly mandates. It should also enable the Organization to fulfill its promise and meet the challenges of contemporary times.

10. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted the adoption of Resolution A/51/241 by the General Assembly as recommended in the Final Report of the High Level Open-ended Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System, and called upon the relevant intergovernmental bodies to implement

fully the measures specified in the text to strengthen the work of the United Nations System, in particular of the General Assembly and the Secretariat.

11. In this regard, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed with appreciation the decisions adopted to strengthen and revitalize the role of the General Assembly, as the highest deliberative and decision making organ of the United Nations in which all Member States equally participate, specially those related to the consideration by the General Assembly of the reports of other main organs, in particular the report of the Security Council and the Report of the Secretary General on the work of the Organization as an important step towards a meaningful and sustained interaction between the General Assembly and the Security Council.

12. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also expressed their satisfaction for the numerous decisions adopted by the General Assembly in regard to the Secretariat, including the selection process of the Secretary General, in which the General Assembly will now be able to recommend to the Security Council a list of possible candidates. Nevertheless, they deplored the fact that the Working Group could not achieve consensus regarding the recommendation to the Permanent Members of the Security Council not to use the veto in the selection process of the Secretary General.

13. As agreed at the XII Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi on 7-8 April, 1997, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation comprehensively reviewed discussions on the reform and restructuring of the Security Council, in the light of the position papers adopted by the Movement on 13 February 1995, 20 May 1996, the NAM negotiating paper dated 11 March, 1997, the decisions of the Cartagena Summit and those adopted on this matter at the above mentioned Ministerial Conference.

14. In conformity with the New Delhi Declaration regarding the necessity to attain general agreement, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their determination to faithfully comply with the provisions of Article 108 of the Charter with respect to any resolution with Charter amendment implications.

15. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation recalled that discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council have shown that while a convergence of views has emerged on a number of issues, important differences still exist on many others. They noted that the Open-Ended Working Group has resumed its discussions and underlined the necessity of the Movement maintaining its unity and solidarity on this critical issue. They reaffirmed that the Movement should, in the ensuing negotiations, continue to pursue directives given by the Cartagena

Summit and contained in the Movement's position papers. The Movement would be guided by the following considerations in approaching the issue of Security Council reform in discussions at the UN:

-Both reform and expansion of the Security Council should be considered as integral parts of a common package, taking into account the principle of sovereign equality of states and equitable geographical distribution, as well as the need for transparency, accountability and democratization in the working methods and procedures of the Security Council, including its decision-making process;

-The Non-Aligned countries are grossly under-represented in the Council. This under-representation should, therefore, be corrected by enlargement of the Security Council which should enhance the credibility of the Council, to reflect the universal character of the world body, and to correct existing imbalances in the composition of the Security Council in a comprehensive manner;

-The extent, nature and modalities of the expansion of the Security Council should be determined on the basis of the principles of equitable geographical distribution and sovereign equality of states. Attempts to exclude NAM from any enlargement in the membership of the Council would be unacceptable to the Movement;

-Increase the membership of the Security Council by not less than 11 based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and sovereign equality of States;

-the negotiation process should be truly democratic and transparent, and negotiations on all aspects should be held, in all cases, in an open-ended setting.

16. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that efforts at restructuring the Security Council shall not be subject to any imposed time-frame. While recognizing the importance of treating this issue as a matter of urgent attention, no effort should be made to decide this issue before general agreement is reached.

17. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the NAM proposal that if there is no agreement on other categories of membership, expansion should take place only, for the time being, in the non-permanent category.

18. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the NAM proposal that the veto should be curtailed with a view to its elimination and that the Charter should be amended so

that, as a first step, the veto power should only apply to actions taken under Chapter VII of the Charter.

19. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined the need for a coherent and coordinated approach y the Movement in the ensuing discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group. They, mindful of the importance of reaching general agreement, as reflected, inter alia, in UNGA resolution 48/26, called for fuller discussions of various proposals submitted to the Working Group.

20. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the importance of enhancing the transparency of the Security Council through the improvement of its working methods and its decision-making process. They called on the Open-Ended Working Group to agree on and the General Assembly to recommend specific and substantive measures to be implemented by the Security Council based on the measures proposed in the NAM negotiating paper on Cluster II issues. They also urged the Security Council to institutionalise such measures, and stressed that a commitment to institutionalise them should be an element of a package agreement on the reform of the Security Council.

21. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction for the fact that the General Assembly had exercised its role and responsibility more effectively in maintaining international peace and security in accordance with resolution 377 of the General Assembly of 3 November 1950, titled: "Uniting for Peace", which led to the convening of the Tenth Emergency Special session on "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory as called for by the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement.

22. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated the need to strengthen the role of the General Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter.

23. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the adoption of Resolution A/51/242 by the General Assembly as recommended by the Open Ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace. They agreed on the need of the UN to implement immediately the decisions as contained in the annexes of the said resolution particularly in the area of United Nations imposed Sanctions. They also noted the request made to the President of the General Assembly to consult on the possibility of continuing the activities of the informal Open-Ended Working Group on An Agenda for Peace in the areas of Post-conflict Peace-building and Preventive Diplomacy and Peace-making on the basis of the work already accomplished in these areas and with a view to concluding its work.

24. They also recognized that, without any prejudice to the competence of the other main organs of the United Nations and their respective roles in the promotion of post conflict peace building, the General Assembly plays the key role in activities related to post conflict peace building. In this regard, they recognized as well, the importance of the concerted actions of international agencies to support actively national programmes for reconstruction and rehabilitation, including the promotion of a culture of peace which paved the way for the achievement of economic and social development.

25. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated that the UN has a primary responsibility for the maintenance of the international peace and security, and there should be no derogation from this primary responsibility. Regional arrangements and agencies can make important contributions in this regard in accordance with Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, including where appropriate to peace-keeping.

26. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation observed that efforts should continue to be made, taking into account the interests of all members of the Movement, to evolve a common position on the remaining elements of "An Agenda for Peace" and its Suplement.

27. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed concern over the increasing occurrence of the term "preventive action" in a number of UN publications without an agreed definition of this term nor the clarification of its implications.

28. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their satisfaction that the United Nations had finally adopted a uniform compensation scale for the cases of death and disability for troops in the service of peacekeeping operations.

29. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Delegation expressed concern at the continued borrowing of money from the peace-keeping fund for the regular budget resulting in the delay of payment to the troop-contributing countries, specially the developing countries. They emphasized the urgent need to find a solution to the delays in reimbursement to troop and contingent-owned-equipment-providing countries for peace-keeping operations , in particular the non-aligned and other developing countries.

30. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the need for the UN to differentiate between peace-keeping operations and humanitarian assistance.

31. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their concern over the deteriorating financial situation

of the Organization, mainly due to the non-compliance with provisions of the Charter by some developed countries by not paying their full assessed contributions to the regular budget and to peace-keeping operations. They called upon all countries in arrears to settle their outstanding dues without further delay and to pay their future assessments on time, in full and without imposing pre-conditions. In awarding procurement contracts, preference should be given to Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Organization.

32. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation regretted that after more than two years of deliberations, the High Level Open-ended Working Group on the financial situation of the United Nations, created under Resolution 49/143, did not accomplish its assigned task of recommending concrete measures that could guarantee a solid and viable financial foundation to the Organization.

33. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the importance of maintaining the principle of capacity to pay as a fundamental criteria in the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization. They urged that the scale of assessments for the period 1998-2000 take into consideration the economic conditions of the developing countries. They considered unacceptable any unilateral attempt to modify the scale of assessment through conditionalities which are contrary to the United Nations Charter. They considered that reduction in the ceiling for the scale of assessments in the regular budget will further distort the principle of capacity to pay and is not acceptable.

34. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed on the need to adopt, on a permanent basis, the principles approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963 and 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 for the apportionment of the expenses for peace-keeping operations. They also emphasized the special responsibility of the States Members of the Security Council in the financing of such operations.

35. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated the continued validity of the fundamental right of all peoples to self-determination the exercise of which, in the case of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, is essential to ensure the eradication of all these situations and to guarantee universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. They strongly condemned ongoing brutal suppression of the legitimate aspirations for self-determination of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation in various regions of the world.

36. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation observed with satisfaction the emergence into sovereign statehood

and independence of peoples once under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation. They reaffirmed the inalienable right of peoples of non-self-governing territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with UNGA resolution 1514(XV) of 14 December 1960 regardless of the territory's size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources. They renewed their commitment to hasten the complete elimination of colonialism and supported the effective implementation of the Plan of Action of the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. In this respect, the principle of self-determination with respect to the remaining territories within the framework of the Programme of Action should be implemented in accordance with the wishes of the people consistent with UNGA resolutions and the Charter of the United Nations.

37. In the context of the implementation of UNGA resolution 1514(XV), the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated that any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

38. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed once again their support for the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament. In that connection, they instructed the Coordinating Bureau to entrust the Working Group on Disarmament with the task of pursuing the holding of the fourth Special Session at an appropriate time and the related coordination during the preparatory process.

39. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body in disarmament.

40. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation called on the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on priority, an ad hoc committee to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. They also insisted on the need to conclude a universal and legally binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. In this context they regretted that some nuclear weapons states had adopted inflexible postures which prevented the Conference on Disarmament from commencing these negotiations.*

41. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation urged Nuclear Weapon States to agree to commence the negotiations

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*Chile issued a reservation on this paragraph.

in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding international instrument to provide unconditional assurances to all non-nuclear weapons states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

42. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation urged Nuclear Weapon States to agree to commence negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

43. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the States Parties welcomed the increasing number of ratifications of the Chemical Weapons Convention and invited once again the declared possessor of chemical weapons who has still not ratified it to do it as soon as possible with the view to its universality. They also underlined the urgency of satisfactorily resolving the unresolved issues in the framework of OPCW with a view to paving the ground for the effective, full and indiscriminate implementation of the Convention.

44. In the context of ongoing deliberations to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention (BCW), the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation emphasized that, given the importance of biotechnology for economic development, any verification regime of the Biological Weapons Convention should contain specific provisions to safeguard the security and economic interests of developing countries, parties to the BWC. The strengthening of the BWC should provide for ensured access for peaceful purposes to the relevant material, equipment and technologies for their economic growth. While asserting that the Biological Weapons Convention inherently precludes the use of biological weapons, they emphasized their support for the explicit prohibition of the use of these weapons in the Convention. In this connection they noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented a proposal to amend article 1 of the title of the Convention to include the prohibition of use of biological weapons and urged an early reply from the states signatories to the inquiries by the depositories on this proposal.

45. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of States Parties to the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) called upon all States, particularly the nuclear weapon states, to fulfill their commitments, particularly those related to Article VI of the Treaty. They called upon the Preparatory Commissions up to and including the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT to engage immediately in substantive work for the meaningful implementation of the obligations under the Treaty and the commitments in the 1995 Principles and Objectives document.

46. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed particular concern over the illicit transfer and the

proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their accumulation in many countries, which constituted a threat to the population and to national and regional security and were a factor contributing to destabilization of States. They urged States to take steps to deal effectively, through administrative and legislative means, with the increasing problem of illicit transfers of weapons, particularly small arms, which exacerbate tensions leading to strife, conflict and terrorism and impact negatively on the socio-economic development of affected countries. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of guidelines in 1996 for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36H of 6 September 1991 by the United Nations Disarmament Commission.

47. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the importance of transparency in armaments in view of the dangerous consequences to the international peace and security of the development, production and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, and the excessive production of conventional arms.

48. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the various bans, moratoria and other restrictions already declared by States on anti-personnel landmines and the growing consensus against the indiscriminate use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. They also took note of the efforts to eliminate them as early as possible. In this regard, they welcomed the decision taken by the Central American countries to constitute the region as an anti-personnel landmines free zone. They underlined that any negotiations and/or agreements to ban landmines should take into account the legitimate national security concerns of States as well as their legitimate rights to use appropriate measures for self-defense. They called for urgent and specific measures to ensure that affected countries had full access to material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance. Access to non-lethal technologies being developed to perform the legitimate defensive role of landmines would help generate support for their elimination. They also called for continued humanitarian assistance for victims of landmines.

49. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the adoption of the text of the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines and their destruction, in Oslo on September 19, 1997.

50. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation commended the work carried out by the NAM Working Group on Disarmament and entrusted it with the task of favorably considering the presentation of draft resolutions on the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, on the relationship between disarmament and

development, on the observance of environmental norms in the context of disarmament, and on the revitalization of work and reform of the agenda of the first committee.

51. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that global and regional approaches to disarmament are complementary and could be pursued simultaneously. They urged States in various regions of the world to negotiate agreements to promote greater balance in conventional armaments and restraint in the production and acquisition of conventional arms and, where necessary, for their progressive and balanced reduction, with the view to enhancing international and regional peace and security. They stressed that the peaceful resolution of regional and inter-state disputes is essential for the creation of conditions which would enable States to divert their resources from armaments to economic growth and development. Regional disarmament initiatives to be practical, needed to take into account the special characteristics of each region and enhance the security of every State of the region concerned. The question of accumulation of conventional weapons beyond the legitimate requirements of States for self-defence should also be addressed, taking into account the special characteristics of each region.

52. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation considered the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global Nuclear Disarmament. They urged States to conclude agreements with a view to creating nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of SSOD-1. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones established by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba. The Ministers considered the question of the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in other parts of the world and agreed that this should be on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned and in conformity with the provisions of the Final Document of SSOD-1. The Ministers welcomed the effort of Mongolia to institutionalize its status as a single State nuclear-weapon-free zone.

53. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To this end, they reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, they called on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) without

delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. They expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighboring and other States and they condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. Stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbors and the region. They further welcomed the initiative by H.E. Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They stressed that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. They also called for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

54. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stated that in order to enhance international security and stability, all States Parties to non-proliferation, arms limitations and disarmament treaties should comply with and implement all provisions of such treaties. They emphasized that questions of non-compliance by States Parties should be resolved in a manner consistent with such treaties and international law. They further emphasized that any deviation from the role envisaged for the Security Council under the UN Charter or in certain circumstances under multilateral treaties on non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament would undermine the provisions of these treaties and conventions, including the inherent mechanisms for securing redress of violations of their provisions. Such deviations would also call into question the value of painstaking multilateral negotiations on disarmament and arms control treaties in the Conference on Disarmament. They underlined that circumventing or undermining the provisions of existing treaties will seriously prejudice the role of the Conference.

55. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted with concern that undue restrictions on export to developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. They emphasized that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

56. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their great concern at the acts of terrorism and subversion which, under various pretexts and disguises, result in the most flagrant violation of human rights and seek to destabilize the prevailing constitutional order and political unity of sovereign States.

57. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed with satisfaction the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (UNGA Resolution 49/60) and urged that it be implemented. They reiterated their condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism, as they have adverse consequences, inter alia on the economy and social development of States. They declared that terrorism also affects the stability of nations and the very basis of societies, especially pluralistic societies. They also called for the urgent conclusion and the effective implementation of a comprehensive international convention for combating terrorism.

58. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation further urged all States to cooperate to enhance international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, wherever by whoever against whomever it occurs, at the national, regional and international levels, and to observe and implement the relevant international and bilateral instruments, taking into account the Final Document of the UN Conference on the Prevention of Crime held in Cairo in 1995.

59. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation affirmed that criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for whatever purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations or factors that may be invoked to justify them.

60. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that all States are under the obligation pursuant to the purposes and principles and other provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international instruments, codes of conduct and other rules of international law to refrain from organizing, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in the territories of other States or acquiescing in or encouraging activities within the territories directed towards the commission of such acts, including allowing the use of national territories and territories under their jurisdiction for planning and training for that purpose. They solemnly reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of any political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorism.

61. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the Movement's principled position under the international law on the legitimacy of struggle of peoples under

colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination which did not constitute terrorism.

62. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation called once again for the endorsement in principle of the call for the definition of terrorism to differentiate it from the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation, for self-determination and national liberation.

63. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed the need to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of race, religion or nationality of the victims or perpetrators of terrorism.

64. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also emphasized that the taking of hostages, wherever and by whomever committed, constitutes a serious obstacle to the full enjoyment of all human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable. They therefore called upon States to take all necessary measures to prevent, combat and punish acts of hostage taking, including strengthening international cooperation in this field.

65. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the positions taken by the Eleventh Summit in Cartagena as well as the Twelfth Ministerial Conference in New Delhi on the Question of Palestine and Situation in the Middle East. They expressed their deep concern over the serious deterioration of the Middle East peace process and the increased tension in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the region as a whole as a result of the policies and actions of the current Israeli government. They reaffirmed their position with regard to the illegal Israeli settlements and other projects in the occupied territories. They supported the recommendation contained in resolution ES-10/3 (15 July 1997) to convene a conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect. They agreed that the Israeli participation in the work of the General Assembly must be in conformity with international law and that Palestinian participation should reflect recent important developments on the Palestinian scene.

66. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their support for the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to have their own state, and they reiterated their demand for the withdrawal of Israel from all the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967. They also reiterated their support for the Middle East peace process started in Madrid, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of land for peace. They called for the implementation of the

agreements reached between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. They also called for the respect of all commitments and pledges made during the peace talks between Syria and Israel and for the resumption of these talks from the point at which they stopped. While expressing their deep concern over the repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon, they called for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon and the West Bekaa in accordance with Security Council resolution 425, and to fully respect the independence, sovereignty and integrity of Lebanon.

67. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed all previous positions and declarations of the Non-Aligned Movement on the question of Cyprus and proceeding from the position that the present status quo in Cyprus, established through the use of force and sustained by military strength, is unacceptable, expressed their grave concern at the latest threats of the use of force against Cyprus and attempts to integrate the occupied areas with Turkey. They expressed their deep regret and disappointment of the positions taken by the Turkish side at the recent UN talks and commended President Clerides Glafcos in his efforts to achieve successful results at the talks, as expressed on 20 August 1997 by the President of the Security Council. They called for the intensification of efforts towards finding a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem based on the implementation of all United Nations resolutions on Cyprus and NAM's decisions in accordance with the principles and positions of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law. To that end, they stressed the need that the Security Council should take resolute action and the necessary measures including steps for the demilitarization of Cyprus as proposed by the President of Cyprus.

68. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reviewed the developments that occurred in the Mediterranean region since the Cartagena Summit. They reaffirmed their determination to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations in the promotion of comprehensive and equitable cooperation in the region in resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region, in the elimination of the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security. They stressed that respect for the right to self-determination, elimination of foreign occupation and foreign bases, non-interference in the internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty of States are prerequisites for the establishment of peace and stability in the Mediterranean region.

69. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the various initiatives advanced to promote Mediterranean cooperation and security as reflected in the relevant paragraphs of the Final Document of Cartagena. In welcoming the decision taken by the IPU Second Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean to set up an association of Mediterranean States, they stressed the conviction that parliaments should be actively

involved in bringing the peoples of the Mediterranean region closer together.

70. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the ongoing Euro-Mediterranean process and welcomed the holding of the Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers Meeting in Malta on 15 and 16 April 1997 and the Mediterranean Forum in Algiers on 16 July 1997. In this regard, they recognized that prospects for a closer Euro-Mediterranean partnership in all its fields would enhance such process and would benefit from the participation of all Mediterranean States in strengthening cooperation in the region.

71. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation commended the efforts of the Non-Aligned Mediterranean countries in meeting the emerging multiple challenges heightened by terrorist activities and organized criminal activity, including drug trafficking, money laundering and illegal migration, which are posing a serious threat to security and stability in the region. In this context, they committed themselves to strengthen further their cooperation with the view to eliminating these threats and thus enhancing the current political, economic and social situation in the Mediterranean region.

72. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed deep concern over the lack of a lasting solution to the political crisis in Somalia. They welcomed the recent developments in particular the conclusion of the Sodere (Ethiopia) Agreement of 3 January 1997 and the establishment of a national salvation council as an encouraging step towards peace and national reconciliation in the country. They emphasized the importance of achieving an all-inclusive political settlement of the conflict in Somalia. They called on all Somali movements to join the ongoing peace process and to find a lasting solution to the conflict in their country. They expressed full support for the proposed National Reconciliation Conference to be held in Bossasso, Somalia. They appealed to the international community to provide political, material and financial assistance to ensure the success of the Bossasso Conference, including by establishing a UN Trust Fund on Somalia as recommended by the Secretary General of the United Nations. They noted with appreciation the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, in particular the countries of IGAD (Inter-governmental Authority for Development), in the search for peace and stability in Somalia. They also noted with appreciation the efforts of the League of Arab States towards Somali national reconciliation.

73. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reconfirmed the position of the Movement as contained in paragraph 163 of the Final Document of the Eleventh Summit in Cartagena. They expressed concern at the non-acceptance by the three Western countries of the appeals of regional and international

organizations and their efforts to reach a peaceful settlement based on the principles of international law. They also affirmed that the measures imposed on Libya are no longer justifiable, and urged the Security Council to expeditiously review the air embargo and the other measures imposed on Libya with a view to lifting them. They further underlined that the escalation of the crisis, the threat to impose additional sanctions and the use of force as a means of conducting relations among States are a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement. They reiterated their support for the proposals submitted jointly by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, as contained in the declaration of the 65th regular session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity held in Tripoli from 24-28 February 1997. These proposals are as follows:

Option 1: To hold the trial of the two suspects in a third and neutral country to be determined by the Security Council.

Option 2: To have the two suspects tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice ICJ at the Hague, in accordance with Scottish law.

Option 3: To establish a special criminal tribunal at the ICJ headquarters in the Hague to try the two suspects.

They called for refraining from resorting to the imposition of sanctions unless a real threat to international peace and security exists and only after all other peaceful means for settling the dispute have been exhausted. They also called for the refraining from adopting measures in the economic, financial, transportation and communication fields, due to their serious and inhumane effects on the people and should reflect the views of the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the only forum that reflects the position of all Member States. Where the imposition of sanctions is inevitable, they should be limited in their duration. After which, a decision should be made whether a consensus for their renewal exists and also serious consideration should be given to lift similar sanctions that are in place.

74. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed its serious concern with the pace of the peace process in Angola due to the failure by UNITA to meet its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol and strongly urged this organization to do so expeditiously. They fully supported the Security Council decision contained in its resolution 1127/97 to apply further sanctions against UNITA unless the latter takes concrete and irreversible steps to comply with all its obligations.

75. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the positions in the New Delhi Final Document concerning the analysis of the international situation, including the

situation in South-East Asia. In this regard, they emphasized the need to resolve all sovereignty and jurisdictional disputes concerning the South China Sea by peaceful means and without resort to force.

76. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their rejection of evaluations, certifications and other coercive unilateral measures as a means of exerting pressure on Non-Aligned Countries and other developing countries. In this context they reiterated their view that coercive unilateral measures and legislation are contrary to international law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among states and furthermore, they also rejected the present trend geared at their strengthening and expansion. They expressed, once again, their concern over the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threatens the sovereignty of States. They called upon States applying unilateral coercive measures to put an immediate end to those measures.

77. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reiterated their deep concern about new legislation aimed at intensifying the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and widening its extraterritorial nature. They further reiterated the views expressed on Cuba at the Twelfth Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi.

78. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed that current trends of globalization and liberalization have had a variable impact on economies of developing countries. While there has been some progress in some countries, a large number of NAM Member States continue to suffer from economic stagnation and marginalization. They also reiterated their deep concern over the fact that developing countries are shouldering a disproportionate share of the adjustment burden, taking into consideration the rapid changes and transformations of the world economy. They noted with concern that the gap between rich and poor countries continued to widen. They also noted the need for a new global human order aimed at reversing the growing disparities between rich and poor, both among and within countries through the alleviation of poverty, expansion of productive employment and enhancement of social integration.

79. Developed countries have had long periods for harmonizing social welfare with economic competition. Developing countries, however, have been driven to accommodate the adjustment process. Globalization and the increasing liberalization have made the external environment for development crucial, particularly since developing countries have become more vulnerable to fluctuations in international trade, financial and monetary flows as well as to technology changes and information distortion. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed that the international community should adopt appropriate measures to

address this situation, thereby ensuring that the benefits of globalization are shared by all countries.

80. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted the completion of the work of the special open-ended ad hoc Working Group on an Agenda for Development and for its report which contains basic guidelines to meet the challenges of development. They urged that the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for economic development be strengthened. They reiterated their support to UN bodies, programmes, funds and specialized agencies which serve the developmental objectives of developing countries. The reactivation and strengthening of international cooperation for development is necessary in order to facilitate the larger participation of developing countries in the world economy. They stressed the need for more effective and enhanced participation in the world economy by developing countries, notably in international and economic decision and rule making. They emphasized the need for facilitating the accession of developing countries applying for the membership of the WTO and for eliminating all political considerations in this regard.

81. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underlined the need for strong political commitment by the international community for the successful implementation of the Agenda for Development. They also stressed the importance of mobilizing adequate resources for the implementation so that it can contribute effectively to diminish existing imbalances and guarantee accelerated and sustained economic growth in the developing countries. To ensure the effective implementation of the Agenda, the Ministers urged that the follow-up and assessment mechanism of the Agenda be seriously undertaken by the General Assembly. They also stressed the importance of dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership based on the mutuality of interests and benefits, shared responsibilities and genuine interdependence.

82. Recognizing that trade, investment and technology continue to be the key elements for economic development, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation also called for further liberalization and increased access for the products and services where developing countries have a comparative advantage, and access to transfer of technology on concessional terms and for regimes on investment and technology taking into account the special circumstances and needs for development.

83. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed that the eradication of poverty through sustained and accelerated economic growth continue to remain the overriding priority for developing countries. They stressed the need for a supportive international economic and financial environment to address long-term problems of poverty and underdevelopment.

84. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their concern for the evident lack of political will by the developed countries to revitalize international cooperation for development. They recognized that ODA continues to constitute an important source of financial flow for many developing countries, particularly LDCs. In this context, they expressed their deep concern on the reduction in official development assistance and called on the developed countries to ensure the fulfillment of their commitment to meet the United Nations target of 0.7% of their GNP as official development assistance for the developing countries.

85. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed the need to establish an open, rule based, accountable, predictable, just, equitable, comprehensive and non-discriminatory global system of economic relations, specially at a time when developing countries are actively engaged in the process of liberalization and integration into the global economy. They urged the developed countries to undertake necessary structural adjustments and refrain from protectionist tendencies against competitive imports from developing countries and against FDI outflows to them, in the interest of new growth opportunities.

86. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation urged the developed countries to:

a) Urgently implement the Uruguay Round Agreements, specially in areas of export interest to developing countries.

b) Provide liberalized and preferential market access through improved and strengthened GSP and other preferential schemes, and extension of their scope to cover new areas and sectors now in the World Trade Organization.

c) Refrain from introducing extraneous issues into the agenda of the WTO, particularly issues with no direct relevance to trade.

d) Assist developing countries in overcoming their difficulties in major markets and trade in services, such as tariff peaks, preference erosion, tariff escalation and the misuse of antidumping measures and countervailing duties.

e) Ensure that the international trading system fully reflects the development perspective.

f) Enable the participation of developing countries in standard and quality setting.

87. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation, while recognizing the advancements made on measures towards the relief of external debt of developing countries, underscored the need to strengthen these measures. They urged developed countries

to provide the necessary financial contributions for the debt relief, including the necessary resources to finance the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility. They also urged creditor countries to facilitate the implementation of the initiative for debt reduction, by widening the number of eligible countries and making more flexible the established conditions,particularly in relation to the adjustment period necessary for the debtor countries to become eligible. They also underlined the need to take decisive steps aimed at substantially reducing official bilateral debts through their cancellation or writing off. They also urged certain developed countries to immediately eliminate all political measures prohibiting the access of some developing countries to the resources of the international financial institutions.

88. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their deep concern at the declining rate of growth of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as a group in 1996 compared to 1995 with no sign of change in this trend, in spite of the broad structural and economic reforms measures undertaken by them. During this period the debt burden for the LDCs increased considerably while the flow of Foreign Direct Investment remained insignificant.

89. In view of negative impact on the economic growth of the LDCs resulting from the fall in ODA, the Ministers for Foreign affairs and Heads of Delegation called upon all donor countries to live up to their commitments to achieve the internationally agreed target of 0.15% of the GNP as ODA to the LDCs as soon as possible. They noted that given the overwhelming dependence of the LDCs on the external assistance for their capacity building, establishment of basic institutional infrastructure and strengthening of potential to attract foreign direct investment, the uninterrupted and promised level of flow of ODA was essential to economic growth.

90. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted that the LDCs have been marginalized in world trade with their share being only 0.04% of the volume of the international trade and emphasized the need for urgently removing all tariff barriers to products from LDCs to the industrialized markets to rectify this imbalance.

91. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation noted that in a number of crucial areas the negotiated results of the Uruguay Round fell short of the expectations of the developing countries and that they had yet to realize the expected benefits, welfare increases and better market access. They regretted that the implementation of the Uruguay Round results in areas of export interest to developing countries has been inadequate and tardy. Trading opportunities of developing countries were sought to be neutralized by the use of protectionist measures, including those taken unilaterally and in the guise of technical standards, environmental, social, or human-rights-related concerns. They agreed that developing countries should consult closely while

formulating their positions on the issues being addressed by the WTO. In this regard, they urged developing countries to work together to elaborate a forward looking agenda for future trade negotiations which would incorporate issues of concern to the developing countries, and would thereby enable them to take the initiative in any future rounds of negotiations.

92. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation evaluated the outcome of the Special Session of the United Nations for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the Implementation of Agenda 21 and, in this regard, they expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress made in achieving the goals set at the Earth Summit, due particularly to the fact that the developed countries have not yet met their obligations of providing new and additional financial resources along with transferring technology on concessional and preferential terms to the developing countries.

93. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation recognized the importance of the Barbados Programme of Action in identifying and addressing the problems and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States SIDS, and reiterated the call for the support of the international community in the implementation of this programme of action. In this regard, they welcomed the comprehensive review of the SIDS Programme of Action scheduled for 1999 and the decision of the 19th Special Session of the General Assembly to hold a two day special session in 1999.

94. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation called for the second replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility´s (GEF) resources to result in a substantial increase of the GEF´s total resources in order to guarantee the full realization of the GEF´s objectives. They underscored the importance of simplifying the GEF's procedures in terms of project cycle and approval in order to facilitate access by developing countries to the GEF´s resources.

95. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the convening of the first Conference of the Parties to the International Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to be held from 29 September to 10 October, 1997. They called upon the international community to take measures towards the complete and effective implementation of this agreement, including through the establishment of an independent financial mechanism for the Convention which benefits from its own resources.

96. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation observed with special interest the convening of the third period of sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held between 1 and 12 December,

1997, and expressed their confidence that the outcome of the Conference will contribute effectively to the provision of technical and financial assistance to developing countries.

97. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed concern over the lack of implementation of the outcomes of the recent United Nations conferences and summits, due mainly to the failure of the international community/developed countries to fulfill their commitments for new and additional resources, the transfer of technology to developing countries as well as those related to enhanced access to the markets of the developed countries.

98. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen south-south cooperation. They reiterated that south-south cooperation is an essential mechanism for promoting accelerated economic growth and development and self-reliance, giving a greater dynamism to the world economy, and promoting the restructuring of the international economic relations. While recognizing the importance of the Uruguay Round and other regional agreements as well as their implementation they expressed their conviction that south-south cooperation is an important means for developing countries to benefit from them.

99. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed paragraph 259 of the New Delhi Final Document and in this regard, reiterated the need for a holistic approach through the entire life cycle of women in promoting the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, including the empowerment of women and economic interdependence of women. They pledged themselves to combat all forms of discrimination against women, and to support measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women. They stressed the need to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at national and multilateral levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of all policies, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

100. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed section E of Chapter IV of the New Delhi Final Document on the Situation of Children, in particular their concern at the intolerable social and economic conditions faced by children and the continued exploitation of children for pornography and prostitution and drug trafficking as well as at the suffering of the refugee and displaced children. They reiterated their call for urgent steps, in particular international cooperation, to address these problems. They also urged all the remaining members who had not done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child without further delay.

101. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation welcomed the convening of a Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1998 dedicated to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, trafficking, and distribution of drugs and psychotropic substances and drug related offences. In this regard, they reaffirmed their determination to achieving concrete results on all the objectives set out in resolutions 51/64 for the Special Session, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility for addressing the demand and supply aspects of drug trafficking. They also reiterated the commitment undertaken at the Eleventh Summit to strengthen international cooperation to eradicate the growing and dangerous links between terrorist groups, which have resorted to all types of violence, thus undermining the democratic institutions of States and violating basic human rights. They called for the adoption of effective measures to restrict the smuggling of guns which is linked to the drug trade and which is generating unacceptable levels of crime and violence affecting the national security and the economies of many States.

102. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation underscored the importance of activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which coincides with the five year evaluation of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. They were of the view that this was an excellent opportunity to assess progress achieved and obstacles to the full implementation of both documents.

103. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation stressed that the human rights issues must be addressed within the global context through a constructive dialogue based approach, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, impartiality and non-selectivity as the guiding principles, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural characteristics of each country. Exploitation of human rights for political purposes including selective targeting of individual countries for extraneous considerations, should be excluded. They emphasized that the coordination of human rights activities must be carried out by United Nations organs, bodies and specialized agencies, whose activities deal with human rights.

104. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation expressed their deep concern at the lack of progress in the negotiations in the Third Committee Working Group on the adaptation of the UN human rights machinery mandated by paragraph 17 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which they attributed to a lack of political will on the part of developed countries. They also expressed concern at the tendency of imposing a particular agenda and monitoring approaches at the expense of the role of development and international cooperation in the overall promotion and protection of human rights.

105. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed their determination to promote and protect all human rights including the right to development.

106. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation reaffirmed that all forms of racism and xenophobia constitute a serious violation of human rights, which should be rejected through all political and legal means. In this context, they expressed their unequivocal support to the convening, before the year 2001, of a world conference against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related forms of intolerance.

107. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation took note of the important and positive coordination of work of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 in the promotion and defence of the common interests of the developing countries. They agreed that the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries should jointly sponsor draft resolutions as appropriate to be presented by the Group of 77, based on past practice at the fifty-second session of the General Assembly.

108. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Countries welcomed the admission of Belarus and Kazakstan as Observers of the Movement.

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[..] South Africa "expresses its reservations on those paragraphs which are not consistent with its basic foreign policy".

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10 October 1997
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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 30 September 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of the communication from this Mission relating to the reply by the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations, circulated on 30 September 1997, to the statement delivered by the President of Bolivia during the general debate.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Marco A. VIDAURRE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 30 September 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations

With reference to the reply by the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations (A/52/409, annex), the Permanent Mission of Bolivia has the honour to provide the following clarifications so that the General Assembly will possess the necessary information to judge objectively the content of the assertions made by the President of Bolivia on 29 September 1997 in his statement in the general debate at the fifty-second regular session.

It was not our intention to refer again to the two issues that led to the reply from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations. Nevertheless, given its content and the assertions made in it, it is important to reiterate the following explanations.

There can be no question of minimizing the justified alarm caused by the existence of minefields on the common frontier between Bolivia and Chile, laid by the authorities of the latter country, still less of depicting that concern as out of place or in the wrong context. What is evident, despite the treaties and agreements invoked by Chile, is that hundreds of thousands of landmines have transformed a vast border area into a zone of threat and risk to the lives of the civilian population. Bolivia will not resign itself to this situation, and is not in agreement with vague declarations of a possible and far-off withdrawal of these weapons of war, but will call for real decisions that demonstrate a genuine will to contribute, through the immediate withdrawal of these weapons, to establishing on the common border between Bolivia and Chile an area of peace and integration.

We reiterate our conviction that minefields are a breach of international humanitarian law and the ugly legacy of past epochs of confrontation and distrust that are out of place on the threshold of the new millennium.

With regard to the vital need to put an end to the landlocked situation that was imposed on Bolivia, we strongly reaffirm our irrevocable historical decision to continue making this demand with all the force it deserves. In our view, international treaties become truly legitimate when efforts are not made, through them, to perpetuate situations of injustice and deprivation for peoples or causes of dependence. No treaty is morally legitimate when its purpose is to enshrine injustice.

With this statement indicating Bolivia's position on both subjects, we do not believe that there is any need to return in this Assembly to these matters, of the validity of which the international community represented in the highest world body is fully aware.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 8 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 October 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-26946 (E) 101097 111097

ANNEX

Letter dated 7 October 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 29 September 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations (A/52/411-S/1997/761), which contains allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

Similar allegations, which are put forward to project the false image that the Greek Cypriot side has sovereignty over the whole of the island, have been amply dealt with and refuted in my previous successive communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 30 September 1997 (A/52/422-S/1997/766, annex). I will therefore confine myself to reiterating that flights within the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place within the sphere of competence and jurisdiction of the TRNC authorities and the Greek Cypriot side has no say in the matter whatsoever.

It is regrettable that the Greek Cypriot side persists in its campaign of harmful rhetoric and intensive militarization. Evidently, the Greek Cypriot side is far from coming to terms with the existing realities and the concept of a new partnership with the Turkish Cypriot side on the basis of sovereign equality. I trust that all concerned will impress upon the Greek Cypriot side that it is high time that common sense and realism should prevail, if there is to be a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) AYTUĞ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 December 1996, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 51/57 entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe". By that resolution, the Assembly, acknowledging the increasing contribution of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security in its region through activities in early warning, preventive diplomacy, crisis management, arms control and disarmament, post-crisis stabilization and rehabilitation measures, welcomed the intensified cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and OSCE over the previous year, and requested the Secretary-General to continue exploring with the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination.

2. By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe", and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at that session, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. MEASURES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

3. On 26 May 1993, letters were exchanged between the Secretary-General and the Chairman-in-Office of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (see A/48/185, annexes I and II). By those letters, the

signatories accepted the arrangements described in the framework for cooperation and coordination between the two organizations (A/48/185, annex II, appendix).

4. By resolution 48/5 of 22 October 1993, the General Assembly decided to invite the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (subsequently known as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe)[1] to participate in the sessions and work of the Assembly in the capacity of observer.

5. The observer status of OSCE and the framework agreement referred to in paragraph 3 above constitute the institutional parameters of cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE.

6. As noted in the previous reports of the Secretary-General on cooperation and coordination with OSCE submitted to the Assembly at its forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/48/549, A/49/529, A/50/564 and A/51/489 and Add.1), good contacts have been established and maintained between the Secretary-General and the Chairman-in-Office of OSCE. The Secretary-General has met regularly with both the Chairman-in-Office and the Secretary-General of OSCE, and their representatives meet United Nations officials on a regular basis at United Nations Headquarters and at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Senior United Nations representatives have taken part in meetings of the Permanent Council of OSCE. A senior representative of the Secretary-General attended and addressed the most recent OSCE summit meeting of Heads of State or Government which took place at Lisbon on 2 and 3 December 1996.

7. In continuation of the informal understanding that there should be a division of labour between the two organizations, the United Nations has retained the lead in peacemaking efforts in Tajikistan and in Abkhazia, Georgia, while OSCE has had the lead in the Republic of Moldova, South Ossetia, Georgia, and in the conflict over Nagorny Karabakh, Azerbaijan. Specific efforts have been made to improve contacts and cooperation in the field, at the negotiating table and between the respective headquarters. These steps have resulted in enhanced coordination with the aim of making better use of the resources of the international community in the interests of the countries being assisted.

8. During the past year, cooperation between the United Nations and OSCE has been evident at a variety of levels.

9. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), together with OSCE and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized the 1st meeting, at Geneva on 2 July 1997, of the Steering Group of the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States. The Steering Group is the main intergovernmental monitoring body, composed of Member States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, set up to evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Regional Conference in May 1996 (see A/51/489, para. 10). Reports of activities carried out by UNHCR, IOM and OSCE were presented at the meeting, which was attended by 45 Member States, 25 international organizations and 73 non-governmental organizations.

10. In the follow-up to the Regional Conference, UNHCR and OSCE, in particular the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the High Commissioner on National Minorities, have further enhanced cooperation on questions related to human and minority rights, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and the return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). As new joint initiatives, UNHCR and OSCE/ODIHR are cooperating in the follow-up to the Regional Conference in the organization of an expert group meeting on the registration and residence permit (propiska) procedures in the countries of CIS; they are also involved in the joint organization of non-governmental organization task forces, the development of non-governmental organization legislation and the joint production of a newsletter, CISCONF News.

11. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is working with OSCE/ODIHR and the OSCE field mission to Georgia in preparing for the return of Ossetians to their homes in Georgia. Similar cooperation is envisaged in Tajikistan. Areas of mutual interest between UNHCR and the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in the countries of CIS include questions of nationality and citizenship, in particular with regard to the return and reintegration of formerly deported peoples.

12. An exchange of information between UNHCR and OSCE is maintained on issues of mutual interest and cooperation. Such exchanges contribute towards ensuring coordinated and complementary action between the two organizations and include regular briefings by UNHCR to the Permanent Council of OSCE, at the invitation of the Chairman-in-Office.

13. In January 1997, informal high-level tripartite consultations were held at Geneva between the United Nations, OSCE and the Council of Europe under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The International Committee of the Red Cross and IOM also participated. Issues discussed were the former Yugoslavia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the follow-up to the Regional Conference held in May 1996.

14. The tripartite gathering, the sixth in a series launched in July 1993, represented a further advance in the informal process of sharing of information, improving coordination, avoiding duplication and optimizing the utilization of scarce resources. Such meetings have proven effective in establishing new channels of communication and bridging differences in the institutional cultures. They have also helped to ensure the active participation of OSCE institutions (including the Chairman-in-Office) and of the Council of Europe in a regular dialogue with Geneva-based humanitarian organizations.

15. Participants at the meeting in January 1997 agreed that, despite the ongoing cooperation in the regions under discussion, there was room for further mutually supportive action, in particular in the areas of democracy-building, the rule of law, constitutional matters and minority rights. They also agreed that contacts should be further developed with international economic and financial institutions, for example, through seminars conducted by OSCE and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), respectively. Finally, it was agreed that an effort should be made to enhance the sharing of information through electronic and other means.

16. A target-oriented meeting on the Caucasus will be held at Vienna in November 1997, at the invitation of OSCE. The next high-level tripartite consultations will also be chaired by OSCE.

17. The Economic Commission for Europe works closely with the OSCE Economic Forum and, on a continuing basis, provides support to the OSCE secretariat regarding economic dimensions of security in Europe. Consultations are under way between ECE and OSCE on establishing a system for the exchange of information on programmes and advance planning on a regular basis.

18. With regard to the former Yugoslavia, the Peace Implementation Conference, held in London on 4 and 5 December 1996, requested OSCE to supervise the municipal elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which took place on 13 and 14 September 1997. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), within the framework of its mandate, cooperates closely with the OSCE Mission and supported OSCE in organizing the elections in accordance with the pattern of cooperation set during the September 1996 elections, when monitors of the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) assisted OSCE and were deployed throughout the country on election day, monitoring and providing guidance to local police forces.

19. On 14 February 1997, the Arbitral Tribunal on Brcko placed that area under temporary international supervision. Following that decision, IPTF increased its strength by some 200 personnel for tasks resulting from the Brcko Arbitration Award. An OSCE centre was also opened in Brcko, with a view to fostering common goals in the implementation of the Arbitration Award and strengthening the presence of OSCE in the Brcko area.

20. Field offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continue to maintain constructive cooperation with OSCE missions in countries in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have consulted with OSCE on legal reform programmes and participated in OSCE-organized training seminars for local police. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia, information is regularly exchanged among human rights missions. The staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights are in frequent contact with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities concerning matters throughout the region, notably developments in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

21. In the wake of the political crisis that engulfed Albania in the early part of 1997, cooperation between OSCE and various United Nations agencies became imperative. While from the outset of the crisis the political lead in the situation in Albania remained with OSCE (which was also in the lead in supervising the 29 June parliamentary elections), the mandate of the multinational protection force in place from March to August 1997 was authorized by the Security Council in its resolutions 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997 and 1114 (1997) of 19 June 1997. In this connection, cooperation between OSCE and the World Food Programme, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund, was crucial in ensuring the prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance to needy Albanians.

22. After the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) in early 1996, and the decision of the Permanent Council of OSCE on 18 April 1996 to establish a mission in the Republic of Croatia, UNTAES and OSCE have cooperated in various spheres, especially as regards confidence-building and reconciliation, as well as the development of democratic institutions, processes and mechanisms at the municipal and district/county levels. During the period under review, the Transitional Administrator held several meetings with the OSCE Secretary-General and, on various occasions, briefed the Permanent Council on the work of UNTAES. At the working level in the field, OSCE representatives participated in the weekly meetings of various UNTAES joint working groups. The OSCE Head of Mission at various times chaired meetings of the UNTAES joint working group on human rights. Two other areas of cooperation between UNTAES and OSCE related to the monitoring of the implementation of Croatian legislation and agreements on two-way returns of all refugees and displaced persons and on the protection of the rights and protection of persons belonging to national minorities, as well as in the elections conducted in April.

23. The Electoral Unit of UNTAES established and maintained a close working relationship with the OSCE office in the region during the entire electoral process in Eastern Slavonia. Representatives of OSCE were regularly invited as observers in the Joint Implementation Committee on Elections which, as the main policy and decision-making body for the elections in the region, shaped the framework for the local elections held for the region on 13 and 14 April 1997. In the final phase, representatives of OSCE/ODIHR established a field presence in the UNTAES-administered region in order to prepare for the observation of the election and worked closely with the field offices of the Electoral Unit. On election day, 30 OSCE/ODIHR observers were included in and supported by the UNTAES security and communication structure. The public statement of OSCE on the local elections was simultaneously submitted to the Transitional Administrator and the OSCE Secretary-General. Further, UNTAES has cooperated closely with OSCE in planning for the OSCE presence in the region at the end of the UNTAES mandate in 1998.

24. In Georgia, the Secretary-General's Special Representative is in frequent contact with the OSCE Head of Mission at Tbilisi. The United Nations office for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia, was opened at Sukhumi, on 10 December 1996. A memorandum of understanding concerning the office was signed by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OSCE Secretary-General on 25 April 1997; in accordance with that memorandum, OSCE agreed to deploy a member of its mission in Georgia, experienced in human rights work, to the office. The officer contributed by OSCE will be deployed to the office once financial arrangements have been finalized between the United Nations and OSCE. In the meantime, the designated OSCE officer has been through an orientation programme at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva and visits the office at Sukhumi on a regular basis.

25. The United Nations and OSCE have continued to cooperate closely in Tajikistan for an early political solution of the conflict. The inter-Tajik negotiating process, where OSCE representatives acted as observers, resulted in the signing, on 27 June 1997, of the General Agreement on the Establishment of

Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan. Representatives of OSCE signed the Protocol on Guarantees and are participating in the work of the Contact Group, which was established at Dushanbe in accordance with the above-mentioned Protocol and is comprised of representatives of eight observer countries, OSCE and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) has continued to interact closely with the OSCE mission in the country, which has concentrated on the promotion of human rights, democratic institution-building and protection of Tajik returnees in the southern province of Khatlon. The United Nations and OSCE are closely coordinating efforts to facilitate the implementation of the General Agreement. A human rights needs-assessment mission of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, conducted in June 1997 at the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, consulted at length with staff of the OSCE mission with a view to coordinating human rights-related activities.

26. In summary, cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and OSCE have further improved in the past year. There is now a wide range of activities in which the two organizations have developed cooperative arrangements, and efforts to enhance this relationship will continue.

Notes

[1] At the Summit of CSCE Heads of State and Government, held at Budapest on 5 and 6 December 1994, it was agreed to change the name of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as of 1 January 1995 (see A/49/800).

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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the revised budget of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/52/401). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. UNOMIL was established by the Security Council by its resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993 for an initial period of seven months. Its mandate has since then been extended and adjusted by the Council in subsequent resolutions, the latest being resolution 1116 (1997) of 27 June 1997, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission for a period of three months, from 1 July to 30 September 1997, in the expectation that it would terminate on that date. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that, in paragraph 46 of his report to the Security Council of 13 August 1997 (S/1997/643), the Secretary-General informed the Council that, in keeping with Council resolution 1116 (1997), the mandate of UNOMIL would expire on 30 September 1997.

3. As indicated in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401), total resources made available to the Observer Mission, from its inception on 22 September 1993 until 30 June 1998, amount to $153,874,313 gross. Estimated expenditures total $119,834,700 gross and credits returned to Member States amount to $34,039,700 gross. A total of $115,079,147 has been assessed on Member States from inception to 30 September 1997; contributions received for that period amount only to $96,625,300, thus resulting in a shortfall of $18,453,847.

4. In connection with the United Nations presence after the withdrawal of UNOMIL, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the final report of the Secretary-General on UNOMIL of 12 September 1997 (S/1997/712), the Secretary-General proposed to establish a small United Nations office in Liberia. The Committee notes that details relating to this office, including its structure, number of posts and mode of financing, have not been given in the budget document (A/52/401). The Committee believes that in future this type of information should be included in budget submissions and, in this case, the details should be provided to the Fifth Committee as soon as possible.

5. The Advisory Committee notes that there is no performance report for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the report would be submitted in January 1998. The Committee regrets the lack of timely performance data.

6. In its resolution 51/3 C of 13 June 1997, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $20,447,100 gross ($18,918,300 net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of the amount of $758,700 for the support account for peacekeeping operations, to be assessed at a monthly rate

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of $1,703,925 gross ($1,576,525 net), subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Observer Mission beyond 30 June 1997.

7. By a letter dated 14 July 1997, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's request to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $3,273,800 gross from existing resources approved for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 for the electoral process in July 1997. Requirements for the electoral process had not been included in the initial budget request nor are they part of the present revised submission.

8. The revised cost estimate for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 amounts to $8,952,900 gross ($8,434,900 net). This estimate represents a decrease of $11,494,200 gross ($10,483,400 net) from the amount of $20,447,100 gross ($18,918,300 net) approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/3 C. As indicated in paragraph 18 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401), the reduction is attributable to the successful completion of the responsibilities of the Observer Mission and its consequent liquidation. The breakdown of the estimate is contained in annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401), along with supplementary information contained in annex II.

9. The revised cost estimates provide for the liquidation of the Observer Mission, including the cost of withdrawal, the cost of the administrative closing of the Mission and the cost of the completion of residual tasks. The revised estimates also provide for the withdrawal of 80 international civilian personnel, seven United Nations Volunteers and 146 local staff.

10. With regard to staff resources, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 22 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401) and paragraph 2 of annex II, section C, to that report that provision is made for eight person months (one P-4 and one Field Service staff) for the completion of the residual administrative tasks beyond 31 December 1997 outlined in annex III. The Committee understands that this provision is made in response to the Committee's request in paragraph 8 of its report (A/51/423/Add.2) that adequate staff should be made available to carry out the liquidation process efficiently.

11. The Advisory Committee notes from annex II, section A, item 7, to the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401) that the amount for rent has increased from $50,040 per month for the previous period to $132,350 per month for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the increase is attributable to a scarcity of accommodation in Liberia.

12. The Advisory Committee also notes from annex II, section A, item 22, that the monthly cost of commercial freight has increased from $1,000 to $139,467. The increase is attributable to the shipping and forwarding of all UNOMIL assets from the Mission area.

13. With regard to the disposal of assets, the Advisory Committee was informed that assets would be distributed to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission/United Nations Observer Mission in Angola. The Committee was also informed that a report on the subject would be issued in January 1998.

14. Provision is made in paragraph 1 of annex II, section C, to the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/401) for death and disability ($40,800). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that no incident of death had been recorded during the reporting period.

15. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 (e) of annex II, section C, that provision is made for the cost of travel of two officers of the Lessons-Learned Unit to Monrovia, Accra and Abuja ($13,900) to study lessons learned in UNOMIL and also cooperation between the Economic Community of West African States and UNOMIL. The Committee recommends that a clear policy be laid down regarding the manner in which the Unit's reports should be prepared; the Committee also suggests that resources for the lessons-learned activities from all sources of funding be indicated at the time of consideration of the support account so as to identify clearly the total scope of activities and resources.

16. In paragraph 24 (b) of his report (A/52/401), the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to assess an additional amount of $3,841,125 gross ($3,705,325 net) taking into account the amount of $5,111,775 gross ($4,729,575 net) already authorized and assessed under the terms of Assembly resolution 51/3 C for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1997. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that of the total appropriation of $31,915,000 gross ($30,730,900 net) for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, preliminary expenditures amounted to $26,177,400 gross ($25,425,600 net), resulting in an unencumbered balance of $2,463,800 gross ($2,072,300 net), taking into account the additional amount of $3,273,800 gross ($3,233,000 net) committed for the electoral process (see para. 7 above). Taking into account this information, the Committee is of the opinion that there is no need for an additional assessment at the present time.